Pilot mauled to death by seven men near The Fort bar in Taguig

BSP slashes key rates by 25 basis points

South Korea elects new president

Tips and tricks to go from corporate wear to cocktail chic

Putin is Time's 'Man of the Year'



NEW YORK—Russian President Vladimir Putin was named Time magazine's "Person of the Year" on Wednesday for restoring Russia from chaos to "the table of world power" though at a cost to democratic principles.

The magazine recognized Putin's "extraordinary feat of leadership in taking a country that was in chaos and bringing it stability," said Richard Stengel, Time's managing editor.

Putin, a former KGB official, ...

PUTIN/A19

Cebu inmates' 'Thriller' in Time most-watched list



THE 1,500 CEBU prison inmates who danced their way to global fame when their music video "Thriller" popped up on YouTube have conquered the print medium as well.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Friday, December 21, 2007



MEET AND GREET AND GIFT. President Arroyo shakes hands with the inmates she pardoned for health and age reasons in ceremonies at the Palace on Thursday.



Oops! Palace clarifies long holiday break

By Michael Lim Ubac

NO BONUS.

There will be no additional pay for employees in the private sector reporting for work on Dec. 22 (Saturday) and 23 (Sunday), as well as on Dec. 29 (Saturday).

"There's no instruction from higher ups to issue a presidential proclamation to do ...

OOPS/A2

53 Oakwood rebels freed

GMA pardon doesn't cover Trillanes, 35 others

By Nikko Dizon

THE ARMED FORCES CHIEF of staff yesterday said 53 officers who had pleaded guilty to a lesser offense for joining the 2003 Oakwood mutiny will be celebrating Christmas as free men after President Macapagal-Arroyo granted them executive clemency. *(Full list on Page A10.)*

Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr. said it was possible some of the men would also be reinstated.

...

"Effective today, they are released as civilians," Esperon told reporters after a two-hour closed-door "ceremonial release" at Camp Aguinaldo.

...

OAKWOOD/A9





HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS. ...

Big business on Sumilao: Rule of law not emotion

By Ronnel W. Domingo and Beverly T. Natividad

A BIG BUSINESS GROUP YESTERDAY warned that the Malacañang ruling on the disputed 144-hectare property in Sumilao, Bukidnon, would discourage future investments in the rural areas.

...

"The rule of law should prevail, not emotions," he said.

...

BIG BUSINESS/A2

Andaya: GMA P30-B pork imaginary

By Michael Lim Ubac and Norman Bordadora

BUDGET SECRETARY ROLANDO Andaya Jr. yesterday dismissed as fiction opposition claims that President Macapagal-Arroyo had a P30-billion "pork barrel" at her disposal ...

"That's imaginary," Andaya said ...

ANDAYA/A10

Have a merry Christmas and green New Year

By TJ Burgonio

HAVE YOURSELF A MERRY CHRISTmas and a green New Year.

...

HAVE A MERRY/A18

Adboard censures Star for making false claims

By Nati Contreras

THE ADVERTISING BOARD OF the Philippines (Adboard) has disapproved a recent print ad run by the Philippine Star for making "unsubstantiated" claims ...

...

ADBOARD/A4

Hot Lamborghini, Ferrari, Porsches seized in Makati

By Margaux C. Ortiz and Tarra Quismundo

A PRESIDENTIAL TASK FORCE yesterday seized 87 "hot" luxury cars, a number of which allegedly belonged to ...

...

HOT/A2



WHO OWNS THIS BABY? Antonio Villar Jr., head of the Presidential Anti-Smuggling Group, and ... inspect a Lamborghini Diablo, one of the ... cars in a ... repair shop. The cars were found to have been imported into the country illegally.

Second FrontPage



Esperon on extension: Up to GMA

But Lacson, Honasan say keeping him won't do AFP any good

ARMED FORCES CHIEF Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr., who is scheduled to retire early next year, yesterday said it was up to President Macapagal-Arroyo to decide whether to extend his term or not.

[illegible]

'Nothing illegal about bonuses'

[illegible]

WHAT'S INSIDE

RED CARPET for returning RP workers /A6

MORE PINOYS still see happy Christmas /A8

NO MORE oil price hikes this year /A11

LA honors 13 Fil-Am docs, nurses

THE LOS ANGELES CITY GOVERNMENT recently honored 13 Filipino-American doctors and nurses for their "exemplary work as health care professionals and role models," the Philippine consulate in LA said yesterday.

In her report to the Department of Foreign Affairs, consul general Mary Jo Aragon said the awardees were given certificates of commendation during the council's meeting on Dec. 14 by LA council president Eric Garcetti and council member Richard Alarcon.

In his remarks during the awarding ceremony, Garcetti thanked the Filipino-Americans who looked after the well-being of Los Angeles residents and recalled his sponsorship of bills leading to the creation of a "Filipinotown" in Los Angeles in 2002.

With reference to the Desperate Housewives episode maligning Philippine medical schools, Garcetti said the good record of Filipino-Americans in healthcare will prevail over any misinformed comments about the second largest Asian ethnic group in Los Angeles.

The Filipino-American awardees were doctors Francisco F. Quintanar Jr., Robinson Villaverde Torres, Rolando Mercader, Noli Soza, Ariel Joaquin, Edwin Nuevo, Marichel Lavista-Monpendo, Edgar Borres and Delia Cabarong, as well as nurses Joan Jones, Mila Velasquez, Melinda Umalna and Lydia Relativo-Jimenez.

Aragon also reported that LA council member Bill Rosendahl noted that he has visited the Philippines and recognized the Filipinos as the backbone of the US nursing industry. *Cynthia D. Balana*





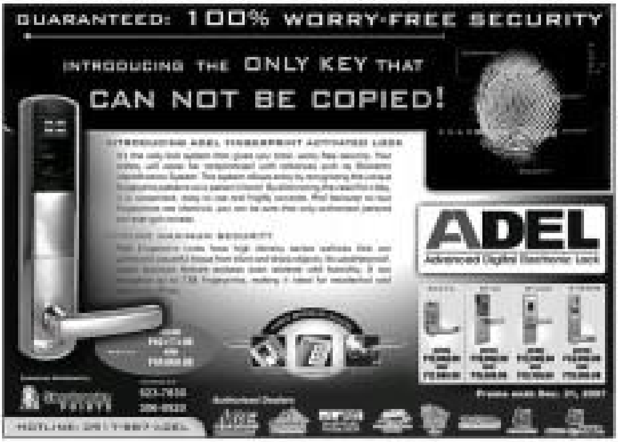
Red carpet for returning RP workers





BSP to ease forex controls

Solons to block Teves app't for refusing to suspend oil tax



By Gil C. Cabacungan

FOR REJECTING THE SENATE's plea for him to ease the oil price burden on consumers by suspending the oil tax, Sen. Mar Roxas vowed Finance Secretary Margarito Teves would not make it through the Commission on Appointments.

Roxas told reporters that Teves—who has been bypassed by the bicameral commission the last two years—had thumbed down a proposal by some senators to suspend the 12-percent expanded value-added tax (VAT) on oil products for at least six months because that would make it even more difficult for him to reach the collection targets and make him lose his job.

"The e-vat on oil is the easiest to collect for any finance secretary which is why he does not want to let it go at the expense of the consumers who would enjoy as much as P4 per liter savings with the suspension. His job is on the line, that is why he was quick to reject the oil vat suspension," Roxas said.

Senate support

He said the suspension of the VAT on oil had broad support in the Senate, including from Senators Rodolfo Biazon, Benigno Aquino III and Francis Escudero. He said he would ask Roxas, who is a member of the Commission on Appointments, to veto Teves' appointment.

"There is P118 billion in back taxes and tax leaks that Secretary Teves has failed and refused to address. Why doesn't he act on these and let consumers have some breathing room by suspending the e-vat? Where is the political will? I understand he has to protect his position but when does Juan de la Cruz come into his decisions?" Roxas said.

He said Teves refused to consider that the P20 billion to P30 billion to be lost from the suspension of the VAT would be made back through consumer spending that would be subject to tax.

Loren's ire

Sen. Loren Legarda had earlier castigated Teves for rejecting her bill that pushed for a tax exemption on the bank savings of senior citizens and at the same time reward the Bureau of Internal Revenue by lowering the excise tax on Pall Mall cigarettes from P20.00 to P6.74 per pack.

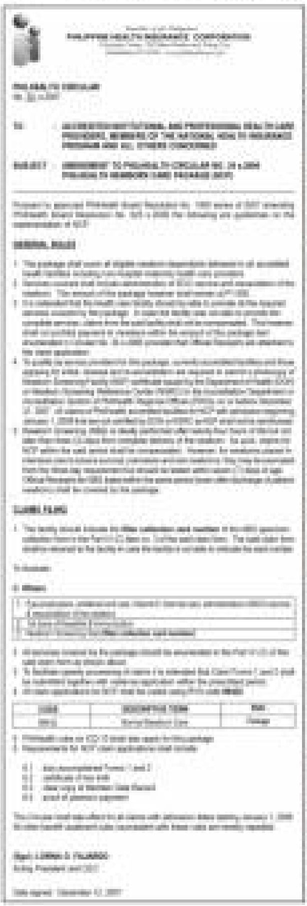
Teves was also criticized by Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago for rushing the sale of the profitable Philippine National Oil Co. Energy Development Corp. purportedly to meet his goal of a balanced budget.

Roxas said the Senate would also look into the implementation of the Lateral Attrition Law to see if anyone had been punished for failing to meet collection targets at the BIR and Bureau of Customs, among other revenue-generating agencies.

Roxas said the Senate was determined Teves would be held responsible for the government's failure to meet revenue targets and not his underlings who would be made the fall guys.







Philcomsat takeover based on bogus letters, says rival group

THE POBLADOR-LOCSIN FACTION IN THE Philippine Holdings Corp. of the Philcomsat group said it would go to the Sandiganbayan today to protest the forcible takeover of the PHC offices the other day by the rival Bautista-Africa group.

The group's lawyer, Pierre Reig, said the Bautista-Africa group (also called Bildner-Africa group, after leaders Erlinda Bautista-Bildner and Victor Africa) had no authority to take over the PHC offices as its election as the "new" government representatives to the PHC board was based on bogus letters of authority from Malacañang.

The Bautista-Africa and the Locsin-Poblador groups represent competing shareholder factions fighting for control of three companies with interlocking ownerships—PHC, the Philippine Overseas Telecommunications Corp. (Philcomsat) and the Philippine Overseas Telecommunications Corp. (POTC).

PHC is 80 percent owned by Philcomsat and both firms are in turn owned by the POTC, the shares of which were sequestered by the Presidential Commission on Good Government in 1986 on charges that these were part of the ill-gotten wealth of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos. The government owns 35 percent of POTC through and appoints directors to the group.

Two factions

The two factions are currently fighting over which is the legitimate board of cash-rich PHC, which the Locsin-Poblador (for Enrique Locsin and Concepcion Poblador) group has controlled since 2004.

According to Reig, the Bautista-Bildner group, using letters signed by Bernardo Abes, the former chair of the Government Service Insurance System, and Solicitor General Agnes Devanadera, voted themselves into the boards of POTC, Philcomsat and PHC last month, with the sequestered shares being voted by Undersecretary Enrique Moya of the Presidential Management Staff, not by the PCGG.

"The Locsin-Poblador group, in contrast, has three critical appointment documents signed by the President [Macapagal-Arroyo] herself and addressed to PCGG, which has the authority to vote the shares in sequestered corporations," said Reig in a statement.

"We are ready to show these papers in any public forum. We challenge the [illegible] Africa group to do the same," he said.

The Bautista-Africa group "already controls POTC and Philcomsat but also wants to control cash-rich PHC, but all they have is a letter signed by Abes and Devanadera. Can underlings and especially an ex-official overturn a presidential action?" he said.

With a report from [illegible]



ABS-CBN wins TRO vs Nielsen



Common currency

Search is on for 2nd Gawad Haydee Yorac

US visa fee hiked to $131

By Cynthia D. Balana



DECEMBER SURVEY

More Pinoys still see happy Christmas

By Kate Pedroso
Inquirer Research

[illegible]

Fugitive Marine captain is new Elvis, says lawyer

By DJ Yap



[illegible]

Text messages

[illegible]

Hoax

[illegible]

2 Pinays convicted of trafficking in HK

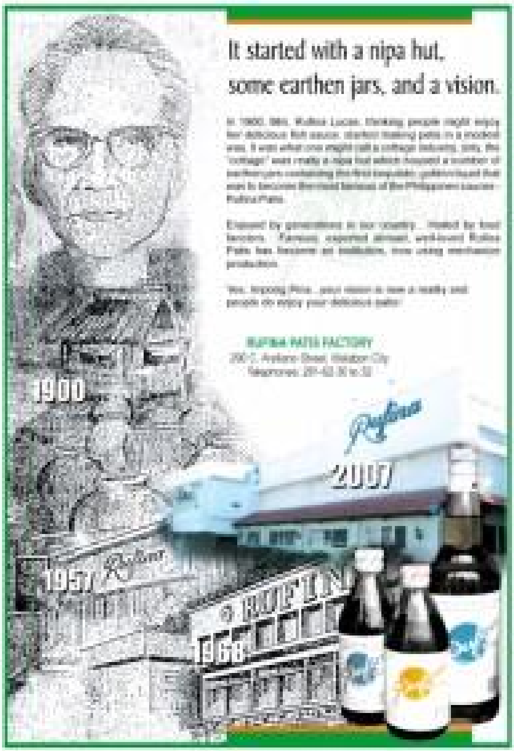
By Philip C. Tubeza
Correspondent

HONG KONG—[illegible]

Facts are clear

[illegible]


Make it happen this Christmas!
892 9511 or 927 0465
John Robert Powers
OFFER EXTENDED! SAVE UP TO P30,000!


It started with a nipa hut,
some earthen jars, and a vision.
RUFINA PATIS FACTORY
1900
2007
1957
1968


Soaring even higher together.
Philippine Airlines and Air Philippines share a strong alliance
to provide you with the most flights, largest fleet, and widest network of destinations.
Philippine Airlines
Clearly No.1
Air Philippines
www.airphils.com
Widest Network • Largest Fleet • Most Passengers Flown • Highest Total Sales Revenue • IATA Operational Safety Audit Certified

53 Oakwood rebels freed

Reinstatement

Core leaders



LAST DAY IN COURT.

AFP OFFICERS GRANTED EXECUTIVE CLEMENCY

Oakwood trial

Andaya: GMA P30-B …

Some senators' pork withheld

Unconstitutional

Additional spending

Veto an option

De Venecia: Cut off pork

Have a merry Christmas and green …

Making safe noise

Mind the animals

PVC cannon most injurious

Putin is Time's 'Man of the Year'

Cost to principles

Putin's dark side

Away from the abyss

Clashes with US

Mocked by Kasparov

A bit of a savage

No more oil price hikes this year

Last increase

LPG at all-time high

Esperanza D. Jones; 89

THE DAILY GOSPEL

PHILIPPINE DA

Adboard censures Star for making false clai

Inquirer reaches more people

Claims must be verified

Bigger slice?

ns



CHILD IN THE DUMPS

Oops! Palace clarifies long ...

Back to work Dec. 26

Special nonworking day

200 percent

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
Opinion

Writ of Esperon

EDITORIAL

IN CHARACTERISTIC FASHION, THE ARROYO administration is testing the waters for a controversial decision-in-the-making. After a troubled and troubling tradition of revolving-door appointments to the crucial position of Armed Forces chief of staff, it is now poised—or, rather, it is positioning itself—to extend the appointment of Gen. Hermogenes Esperon.

The Arroyo way of testing the waters is to make like a duck: to float serenely above the water, but to paddle furiously under it. The idea that Esperon, President Macapagal-Arroyo's loyal comrade-in-arms, should be given more time at the helm of the military is being peddled actively by persons allied with the President, but at the same time it is being actively denied by other allies—with Ms Arroyo herself observing a duck-like nonchalance.

It is clear, of course, that the President enjoys the privilege of extending the term of the AFP chief if necessity dictates or policy requires. It is a privilege, however, that is attended by a bodyguard of responsibilities. Foremost of these is the duty to make the extension serve the national interest. It is difficult to see any extension of Esperon's term in this light.

Esperon has shown his Commander in Chief utmost fidelity, especially when as Army commander he stopped another episode of misguided military adventurism in February 2006. He has also played a leading role in the AFP's deliberately heavy-handed treatment of both the July 2003 mutineers and the February 2006 adventurists.

But overriding loyalty to the Commander in Chief is the quality one looks for in a commander of the presidential guard (which, in fact, Esperon was). The AFP chief of staff, however, must place both the national interest and the interest of the military as the protector of democracy above that of the President. This is exactly the thing that Esperon has failed to do.

He has not risen above his formative experience as commanding officer of the Palace guard. He has failed, despite his unremitting effort to rid the ranks of military mistakes-in-the-making, to de-politicize the military.

In a word, he has acted as a partisan.

Under his term, Esperon has also failed to stop the spree of politically motivated killings that will forever haunt his Commander in Chief's legacy. Indeed, he has gone out of his way to spite the United Nations special rapporteur, who was invited by the Arroyo administration to conduct an investigation into the killings. Like that of the controversial ex-general Jovito Palparan, Esperon's name will be linked to the killings for all time—if only because he remains, to this day, aggressively in denial.

His partisan defensiveness against UN delegate Philip Alston is part of a pattern of truculence in matters of justice and chequeism. Consider the legal or political battles over the Mayuga report, over the Jonas Burgos case, over the Peninsula Manila incident—indeed, over the damaging disclosures in the Hello Garci tapes.

This track record does not inspire confidence that, if an over-assertive Executive instructs the armed services to do the non-democratic thing, its chief of staff will stand up for the nation's true interest. Extending Esperon's term will definitely be good for President Arroyo's interests and it would be her very own version of the Supreme Court's writ of amparo. We can't say, however, that it will be good for that of the military or of the nation as a whole.

'Over-godfather'

FOREIGN COMMENT

IT LOOKS LIKE THE PRESIDENTIAL QUESTION IN RUSSIA HAS been solved as Deputy Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev clearly became the overwhelmingly favorite candidate after support from President Vladimir Putin and the United Russia party. There is no reason to believe that the Russian themselves won't choose him as the country's next president in the March election.

Putin will continue to be the Russian godfather. He sidestepped intelligence circles and chose Medvedev who is uncomplicated in order to ... The Russian word "nichtol" means but; however, Medvedev is more like a teddy than an angry grizzly that has been woken from its winter slumbers. Medvedev will try to be the godfather of a better future Russia, but the godfather will himself have a godfather. The over-godfather is Vladimir Putin, whose future on operation is still surrounded by speculation.

Something however was revealed when Medvedev suggested in a TV appearance that Putin should become the prime minister. Medvedev would not say what Putin should do without the latter's permission.

—*Etta Sanomat (Helsinki, Finland)*

Publisher ISAGANI YAMBOT
Editor in Chief LETTY JIMENEZ-MAGSANOC
[illegible]



A rescued dog's Christmas poem

AS I SEE IT
Neal H. Cruz

[illegible]

—*Author Unknown*

Dissident thoughts in a Siena monastery

PASSION FOR REASON
Raul C. Pangalangan

[illegible]

Illiberal response to terrorism

ANALYSIS



Amando Doronila

Lanterns and a dancing 'Oble'

AT LARGE



Rina Jimenez-David

An American woman's happiest Christmas

LOOKING BACK



Ambeth R. Ocampo

Happy holidays

PINOY KASI



Michael L. Tan

Surveys

Three parts

Moral dimension of revolutions

LETTERS

Mystery shrouds 'NLEX' right of way

Wrong interpretation of court's decision

There is no such thing as freedom of the press

Across the NATION

1,800 families flee Basilan clashes



PRICEY CATCH

A woman sells "bolong" (a rare and delicious variety of [illegible]) and "banag" ([illegible]) in Ilagan, Isabela. Her husband, a fisherman, takes his way [illegible] to catch fish almost everyday during good weather to earn money for the family, [illegible] as it could sell for up to P1,500 per kg.

ZAMBOANGA CITY—AT LEAST 1,800 FAMILIES in Basilan fled their homes as a result of clashes between government security forces and Moro gunmen since Tuesday, officials said.

Tuburan, Basilan, Mayor [illegible] said the [illegible] in his town alone, more than 900 families from the villages of [illegible], Sangbayan and [illegible] were displaced by the fighting.

The military said the violence flared up anew after soldiers conducting [illegible] operation stumbled on Abu Sayyaf gunmen.

The military also reported that the Abu Sayyaf was being reinforced by some members of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

Since Tuesday, at least several soldiers and six Moro gunmen have already died in the clashes, according to Maj. Gen. Nelson Allaga, chief of the military's Western Mindanao Command here.

[illegible] said the clashes occurred as residents were preparing for Wednesday's celebration of the Eid'l Adha.

The celebration is one of the most important events among Muslims. Eid'l Adha, or the feast of sacrifice, is an annual celebration commemorating Prophet Abraham's will to sacrifice his son, Ismael, in honor of God.

"There was no more room for celebrations. Instead of cooking for the festivity, people left their homes because of fear of being caught in the crossfire," he said.

In Tipo-tipo, General, three villages were also affected by the fighting.

Mayor [illegible] said about [illegible] families were also displaced from the three villages.

He said what complicated the situation was the use of heavy artillery by Marines since Tuesday afternoon.

"I pity our people so much. They have not recovered from previous violence yet and here comes another again. What really made us sad is that these incidents occurred when we were approaching the celebration," [illegible] said.

Meanwhile, [illegible] said that some of those killed in the violence were actually civilians and not Abu Sayyaf gunmen as the military had claimed.

"They returned to the area hoping to salvage something for our Eid'l Adha celebration but they were executed by the military forces, do they know that one of them is a son of an Army soldier?" he said.

Maj. Eugenio Batara, spokesperson of the military's Western Mindanao Command, said they did not receive any report about civilians killed in the clashes. *Julie S. Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao*

Cop in fatal road mishap kills self in jail

CAMP VICENTE LIM, LAGUNA—AN [illegible] member of the Philippine National Police Academy (PNPA) shot himself inside a police station hours after the van he was driving accidentally bumped and killed a high school student in Sta. Rosa City on Thursday.

PO3 Williams Bayan, 41, resident of Barangay [illegible], Silang, Cavite, died from a gunshot wound in the head while being rushed to the South Luzon Hospital.

Chief Insp. [illegible], chief of the Laguna Police Provincial and Assistance Group (Lappag), said they held Bayan after the Mitsubishi L300 van (PMF 814) he was driving hit student Jayson Andaya, 14, who was then crossing the street in Barangay Don Jose at around 8:15 p.m. Wednesday.

[illegible] said Bayan was then on his way to the PNPA campus in Silang town where he worked as a firing range instructor.

The accident happened just a few meters away from the office of Lappag.

[illegible] said Bayan immediately rushed the high school student to a nearby hospital but the student was declared dead on arrival by doctors.

"As part of our standard operation procedure, we arrested Bayan and detained him at the temporary detention cell inside our office," [illegible] said in a mobile phone interview.

[illegible] said that at around 6 a.m. Thursday, Bayan's youngest brother, PO1 Antonio Bayan Jr., visited him at the jail and inquired about what happened.

"After a few minutes, we heard (Antonio) saying, 'Please, don't do that.' Then, a gun shot rang out," he said.

[illegible] said it turned out that while the two were talking, Bayan suddenly grabbed the 9-mm caliber pistol of his brother, put it to his head and pulled the trigger. *Marlon Ramos, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

Mayor taunts NBI on custody battle

By Carla P. Gomez



LIGHTS GALORE



Village exec brings in firearms to protect holiday churchgoers

Rewards

Notorious place

Extra work

Suspect in Canada murder of Ifugao woman arrested

GMA NETWORK

GMA NETWORK CATEGORICALLY DENIES THE REPORT THAT IT IS BEHIND ALLEGED AGB NIELSEN RATINGS MANIPULATION.

In its radio report, ABS-CBN / DZMM erroneously broadcast that AGB NIELSEN named GMA 7 as the network that allegedly funded an operation to bribe metered homes in Bacolod City to watch GMA shows and influence the ratings.

DZMM reporter Junrie Hidalgo on December 19, 2007 angled the story as: AGB NIELSEN UMAMIN SA DAYAAN, GMA NETWORK TAHASANG ITINURONG NASA LIKOD NG DAYAAN.

However, the affidavit in court submitted by Maya Reforma of AGB Nielsen belied such accusation against GMA Network.

The affidavit of AGB's Maya Reforma states: "There is no evidence that shows any significant impact on NUTAM data as a result of the activities PURPORTEDLY launched by GMA Network".

When asked what she can say about ABS-CBN's request to the Regional Trial Court to restrain AGB from distributing its ratings data — Reforma stated: "There is no basis for it. The data is accurate and reliable."

GMA 7 points out that this only proves there is no truth to allegations by ABS-CBN that GMA was involved in tampering with the AGB ratings.

ABS-CBN just filed a multi-million peso civil case against the survey firm AGB Nielsen. The brouhaha started when ABS-CBN was approached by an alleged informant who claimed to be working with GMA.

GMA categorically denies that the ABS-CBN informant ever worked with or for GMA.

GMA has referred the matter to its outside legal counsel for appropriate action.

Apart from being improbable, the informant's claims as bandied about by ABS-CBN is also **NOT LOGICAL.**

GMA Network's ratings in the provinces — particularly in the Visayas and Mindanao — have not had any significant improvement since July of 2007 when it started to subscribe to the ratings of AGB. If there were any involvement in the alleged tampering of panel homes in the area by GMA Network, then its ratings there should have experienced significant increases.

GMA does not conduct manipulative promo efforts anywhere in the country. What it does is conduct legitimate field promo activities that are not deliberately directed AT PANEL HOMES but at the general television population of a certain locality.

While GMA Network promotes heavily in the Visayas and Mindanao, ABS-CBN does even more aggressive and wide-scale promos in these areas.

GMA has been spending considerable amounts of money to strengthen its signal, expand its reach and **for legitimate promos** to promote its programs in the Visayas and Mindanao. GMA values integrity and hard work as reflected by the credibility of its programs and its corporate core values. **It is not GMA's style to play dirty.** GMA programs are preferred and trusted by viewers in Luzon, Mega Manila and Metro Manila as proven by the ratings and general public opinion. A trial by publicity is not only unfair and damaging to GMA Network but also to its millions of loyal viewers.

Also, for more than four years now, GMA Network has been complaining to AGB about the very big, highly illogical and unexplainable disparity between the cable and non-cable ratings of GMA's programs. ABS-CBN's programs do not exhibit such disparity.

It is only in the Philippines that the ratings of programs on non-cable or free TV households exhibit a very different behavior from the cable households. Coincidentally, the Philippines is also the only country in the world where a competing free-to-air TV station also operates or controls the dominant cable company. The owners of ABS-CBN directly or indirectly operate the country's largest cable company.

GMA Network has been sending letters to AGB since 2003, long before ABS-CBN's complaint. These letters show how much the Network wants to find out if there are indeed irregularities in the ratings data gathering process. GMA cited that ABS-CBN — through the dominant cable operator — can gain undue advantage because cable personnel, in the course of their work, can come across which homes AGB Nielsen has placed its meters.

GMA is determined to get to the bottom of this allegation.

GMA reserves the right to take such action as may be warranted, to protect its interests and reputation.



GIVE LOVE!
HOLIDAY
2007
A lot to love at
Robinsons
Department Store
Robinsons
Department Store

They plowed the fields, took care of the kids, kept the faith

Hard decision

Unity

Rich and poor

Silent majority

Big business on Sumilao: Rule of law not emotion

Rule of law, not emotion

Cardinal's call

Church grateful to farmers

Alternative dispute resolution

Hot Lamborghini, Ferrari, Porsches seized in Makati

Wedding gift

'Electronic hand tools'

LTO in cahoots?

Erap son denies interfering in raid

By Jeannette I. Andrade

Documents as evidence

No political color

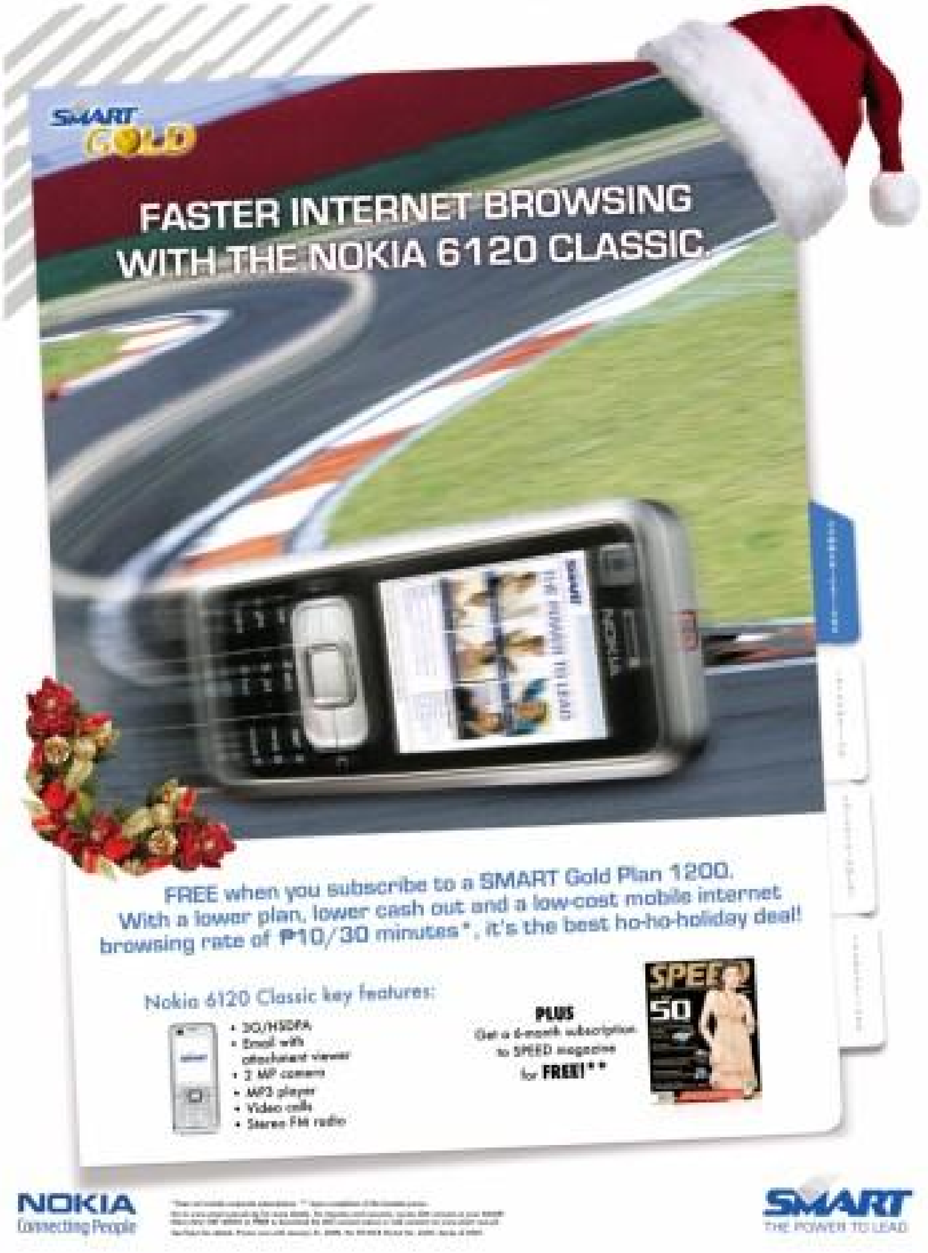
Cebu inmates' 'Thriller' in Time's most-watched list

Downloaded 9-M times

Part of exercise

NEWS

Cheaper meds battle shifts to bicam



A plus METRO

DID YOU KNOW

THOUSANDS joined the 6.5-kilometer funeral march that carried movie legend Fernando Poe Jr.'s body from Sto. Domingo Church in Quezon City to the Manila North Cemetery on Dec. 22, 2004. Crowd estimates ranged from the tens of thousands to 300,000. About 200 policemen and 800 volunteer marshals were deployed at the cemetery. Poe died of a stroke on Dec. 14, 2004.

Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research

1 killed, companion injured in Fort Bonifacio bar brawl

Fatality was a pilot and PMA graduate

By Julie M. Aurelio

A 34-YEAR-OLD COMMERCIAL PILOT WAS mauled to death yesterday morning by seven men during a brawl near the Embassy Bar in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City.

The suspects and two women companions were immediately arrested by the police and may be charged with homicide and physical injuries.

The fatality, Carlo Jose Castellano, reportedly a part-time pilot, was not the target of the suspects who were allegedly after his friend Dedrick Ponce.

A resident of Bonifacio Heights in Fort Bonifacio, Castellano is reportedly the son of a retired general.

Ponce, 34, survived the attack. Castellano was pronounced dead on arrival at 5:30 a.m. at the Makati Medical Center.

The suspects were arrested by police stationed at the Embassy Bar and a nearby precinct.

Chief Insp. Gilso Rodriguez of the criminal investigation section identified the suspects as Ruben Arrasis, 22, of Pasay City; and Edmund Quirante, 23; Nelly Quirante, 37; Marvin Marias, 16; Wilfred Quirante, 23; Julius Quirante, 20; Joseph Quirante, 30, all from Quezon City.

The women, who were with the men aboard a silver Mitsubishi Adventure (ZEE 731), were identified as Michelle Quirante, 27, and Rowena Kitchen, 28, from Quezon City.

Rodriguez said Castellano flew for international airlines and was a graduate of Class 1995 of the Philippine Military Academy.

"Free-lance siya sa mga airline. He was not working for a specific airline company," he said.

An initial investigation by SPO2 Gracio Cuagon showed that Castellano and Ponce had just left the bar around 4:45 a.m. and were walking towards the parking lot when the suspects' van stopped in front of the victims. The suspects then assaulted the victims.

Rodriguez said Ponce could have irked the suspects when he accidentally bumped them at the rest room of the Embassy Bar.

The seven men allegedly took turns hitting Castellano and Ponce, who had several bruises, cuts and contusions in different parts of the body. He was later brought to the Rizal Medical Center. Rodriguez said the women stayed inside the car during the incident.

Policemen at the Embassy Bar blocked the suspects' vehicle, preventing their escape.

Mayor Freddie Tinga condemned the mauling incident and warned outsiders against disrupting the peace in the city. "We strongly condemn this brutal killing," he said. "I think that the suspects are not even residents of our city. We warn them not to mess with our city or they will face dire consequences."

The mayor lauded the police for the immediate arrest of the suspects. He said some of the suspects were reportedly balikbayans (returning residents) who were in the country for the holidays.

Meanwhile, the city government will discuss additional security measures with officials of the Bonifacio Estate Services Corporation to avoid similar incidents in the future.

The Taguig City Police helps security forces man Fort Bonifacio Global City.



WELCOME TREAT Ice cream cones are given for free to Overseas Filipino Workers at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport who have been arriving in droves to spend Christmas here with their families.

Recruitment agency in Manila faces estafa charges



FOR A GREEN ENVIRONMENT
The Charitable, Religious, Educational and Social Welfare Organization of the Philippines (Cres) led by its chair, justice Emilio Gancayco, and president Dr. James Dy, held tree planting ceremonies at the Quezon City Elliptical Circle in support of environment programs in the city. In photo are Justice Emilio Gancayco, vice chair Ruben Reyes, Dr. Dy, QC Park Foundation Inc. lawyer Charito Planas and other members of the organization.

Police to use sidewalk vendors in fight against crime in shopping areas



MetroBriefs

No malice in article, says Lolit

7 buses destroyed in QC fire

Trader loses car to thieves

Ham for Navotas residents

Betancourt release under way, says ex-hubby



Israel building Olmert a nuclear bunker

Wise tips to beat the Christmas rush

The WORLD

Conservative wins S. Korea presidency

SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA—LEE MYUNG-BAK, A conservative politician famous for his success in business but dogged by questions about his character, swept to a huge victory on Wednesday in a presidential election dominated by economic concerns.



LEE

US Senate passes gun bill in response to rampage



RED PLANET UP CLOSE

WorldBriefs

Europe proposes limits on auto emissions

CIA to release documents about videos

Ex-Thai tourism chief quits polls over bribery claims



JUTHAMAS

Nepal finds possible burial site of 'disappeared'

Family abuse kills 32 old people in Japan

SPORTS

WHAT'S INSIDE

■ **Pistons halt Celts; Mavs shade Suns** /A29





Hapee still unbeaten; San Mig Coffee scores

Games medalists get bonuses today









Bowling coaches step down; chief may follow suit



Rampaging Tigers take on Kings today

ATENEO-LA SALLE GOLF DUEL

Looks like it's Green anew



SPORTSWATCH

35 amateur fights highlight yearend PCSO boxing slate

Pasay 'Pasko' derby kicks off with 80-plus matches

Last call for entries in P4-M Makati 'Salpukan' 6-cocker

RP cyclists show way in Tour of Thailand



Hapee stays unbeaten . . .



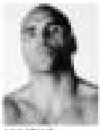
Former IOC chief rushed to hospital after fainting

Pistons halt Celts; Mavs shade Suns

Grizzlies prevail as Spurs sputter



Mundine stakes WBA crown vs Hamdan Feb. 27

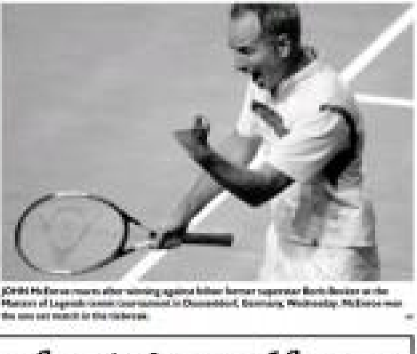


MUNDINE

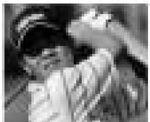
Allen eyes return after 2-game absence due to sore right ankle

Ruangkit pulls ahead with 64; Que 6 shots off in E San Open





More events, bigger money for Asian golf tour





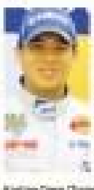
SPORTS

Sadorra bows to top-seeded GM





Villalon rules Macau Yamaha Cup karting



BUSINESS

IN THIS ISSUE

- Monte Oro to tap global debt market /B4
- Gov't subsidies to state firms up 84% to P19B /B6
- Aboitiz Power, Vivant form joint venture /B7

BSP slashes key rates by 25 basis pts

Widely anticipated move seen to prop up exports

ENCOURAGED BY A BENIGN INFLATION ENVIRONMENT, THE Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas yesterday slashed its key policy rates by 25 basis points—a move that is seen to temper a rising peso and cushion its adverse impact on exports.

Maynilad finally secures court's nod to exit rehab

CURRENCIES



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

STOCK MARKET



Shares close 0.7% higher

Liability for false info

Corporate & Securities Info

Rolel J. Palabrica

Active role

Penalties

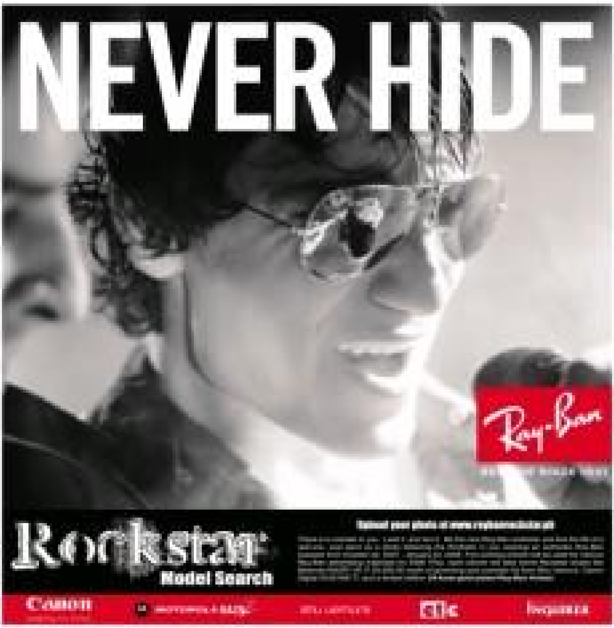
Signatories





Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

DA puts up facility to boost ornamental fish sector





Cayenne Porsche Financing Campaign in partnership with Banco De Oro. All applications are subject to bank approval. PGA Cars is a CAMPI Member.

Republic of the Philippines
ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
San Miguel Avenue, Pasig City

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Monte Oro to tap global debt market

By Abigail L. Ho

THE GROUP OF MONTE ORO GRID Resources Corp., Cobra High Power Corp. and State Grid Corp. of China will likely tap the international debt market to finance its acquisition of the 25-year National Transmission Corp. concession for $3.95 billion.

In an interview with the Inquirer, Monte Oro chief and president Walter Brown said the group had yet to finalize the breakdown of how much the consortium would finance via equity and loans.

A source familiar with the matter said, however, that around $900 million of the total amount would be financed by equity, with the balance to be funded through a bond issuance "at the appropriate time."

"We're still discussing the structure with the shareholders. We still have time from now until we get the franchise," Brown said.

Right now, he said the consortium was banking on the payment structure provided by Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. Under this, the consortium will pay 25 percent of the bid price upon the approval of the franchise with the balance to be amortized over 20 years.

This, however, carries an interest rate of 12 percent per year.

The group could also opt to prepay the amount with the money to be raised through a bond float.

"There's a possibility that we'll be able to get financing at around 6-9 percent. A number of financial institutions have already approached us, but it's still too early to tell. We don't know what will happen in the market in the future," Brown said.

He further said that the consortium was confident it could secure a congressional franchise to operate, maintain and expand the nationwide transmission grid within the nonextendable one-year timeframe for franchise acquisition.

He said he believed that members of Congress would see the importance of having the consortium infuse some much needed capital into Transco, not only to make it operate more efficiently but also to expand it to meet future requirements.

The Monte Oro group has a year from being declared as the official winner of the Transco bidding to get a congressional franchise to operate the transmission system.

Should it fail to secure a franchise within that time, the group's bid security would be returned and the bidding would be declared a failure. PSALM would also reimburse the group's expenses of up to around $5 million.

Listed firms' combined profits up 24%

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lucas

LISTED FIRMS POSTED A 24.4-PERCENT jump in their combined profits to P265.58 billion in the first nine months of the year from P213.51 billion a year ago, data from the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) showed.

The PSE said in a statement that the total gross revenues of listed companies went up by 12.4 percent to P1.75 trillion during the nine-month period from P1.56 trillion a year ago.

The PSE data was based on the records of financial statements of 235 listed companies that were filed with the bourse as of Dec. 14, 2007. Those that submitted financial statements included those listed on the small and medium sized enterprises board.

"The results of our latest study once again provide us with clear proof that our stock market stands on solid ground," said PSE president Francis Lim.

During the first nine months, the PSEi, the local market's main barometer of stock price movements, rose by 19.8 percent from its end 2006 level.

"If we can maintain our strong macroeconomic fundamentals, there is no doubt we can sustain our market's advance," Lim said.

Industry groups on the main board, except the services sector, enjoyed double-digit growth in profit from January to September this year.

The holding firms sector recorded the highest growth in combined net earnings at 84 percent to P63.88 billion in the first nine months, from P34.65 billion a year ago.

The combined net income of companies under the property sector grew by 50.9 percent, mining and oil sector by 43.7 percent, the financial sector by 18.8 percent, and the industrial sector by 18.5 percent.

The net profits of firms under the SME board went up by 28.5 percent to P8.85 billion from P7.51 billion a year earlier.

Firms under the services sector posted earnings of P50.77 billion in the period, up from P50.96 billion a year earlier.

Firms under the industrial sector posted earnings of P62.32 billion; financial sector, P53.32 billion; property sector, P38.07 billion, and mining and oil sector, P4.95 billion.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

Sumilao: The long view

AGRIWATCH

Contending parties

Another view

Best solution

Gov't subsidies to state firms up 84% to ₱19B

BSP . . .

From page B-1

Maynilad . . .

From page B-1

Shares . . .

From page B-1

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

DEPARTMENT OF AGRARIAN REFORM

NOTICE OF COVERAGE

Aboitiz Power, Vivant form joint venture

Galoc to get new funds from Nido



People, Events & Products

Zest-O among most admired Asean firms

The Body Shop: Feel good naturally



Time to share, time to care



APMC WINS 2007 DON EMILIO ABELLO ENERGY EFFICIENCY AWARD



'TECHNO WARS 2007'-BATTLE OF MATH AND SCIENCE WIZARDS



ATENEO SCHOOLS PARENTS COUNCIL HONORS OUTSTANDING TEACHERS



AMIGO MALL NOW IT BUILDING

'Deal Or No Deal' from MSV books

The bazaar with a heart

Live performances

Christmas at Discovery Country Suites: The closest thing to experiencing New England

Inspired by Italy's Most Beautiful 'Cities of Art'



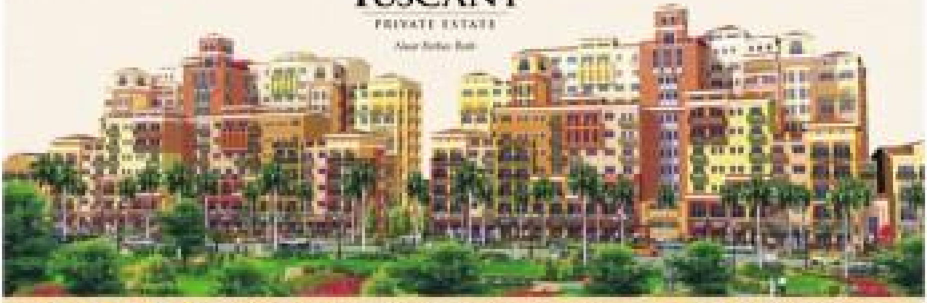




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MEGAWORLD CORPORATION

ALLIANCE GLOBAL

BUSINESS Friday
Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

Filipinos putting more money in franchises

Many of the franchisors are young people willing to take risks



SIBAL-LIMJOCO

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

JUST A LITTLE OVER 10 YEARS AGO, franchising was virtually unheard of in the Philippines.

For the few who were familiar with it, they thought it was a business expansion strategy limited to the big foreign food companies, such as McDonald's, Shakey's and Pizza Hut.

Franchising in the Philippines has definitely gone a long way since then, and the industry is showing no signs of slowing down, just of speeding up.

The latest data from the Philippine Franchising Association, the biggest and oldest franchising group in the Philippines, show that there are close to 900 franchises operating in the country from just 50 in 1995 and 64 percent of these are homegrown. These are largely in food, service and retail.

Franchising has thus become a major force in the economy, accounting for an estimated 33 percent of the annual retail sales of roughly $5 billion.

"Franchising has become the fastest growing sector in the country today and will continue to be a major sector in the near future," according to the book, "A Guide to Franchising in the Philippines," produced by the PFA.

Margie Sibal-Limjoco, chairperson of the 12-year-old PFA, says in an interview that the franchising industry continues to grow in the Philippines, partly because more Filipinos are planning to put up their own businesses, especially among the youth.

Perhaps due to growing exposure to success stories of entrepreneurs who have either acquired a franchise or have become franchisors themselves, many from among the Filipino youth are willing to risk putting their money in a franchise.

"Many of these young people go to my trade shows and I like them because they are brave and are willing to try out new things and go into a business, even if they are also employed at the moment," Limjoco explained.

She added that with more Filipinos believed to be becoming more exposed to new trends in food or fashion through the Internet and travels abroad, they get to experiment new ideas in the market place.

There is always that possibility that some of these new ideas will become the next Jollibee or Goldilocks—two of the biggest names in the Philippine franchising industry.

The industry is also expected to become a major dollar earner because of the royalty paid collected by Filipino brands now operating in foreign markets.

These include Jollibee (food), Chowking (food), Islands Souvenirs (novelty goods), Binalot (food), [illegible] (hair services), Figaro Coffee (food), Video City (video sales and rentals), Crystal Clear (purified water), Bench (apparel) and [illegible].

Armando Bartolome, one of the Philippines' leading franchise consultants, expects more Filipino companies to become franchisors outside the Philippines as part of their expansion strategy.

"Franchising is definitely a growing market. Every month, there are entrepreneurs starting to expand via franchising. More and more Philippine companies that are franchising here are now inspired to expand beyond the shores like within the Asian region, Middle East and North America. I could see that within the next decade, almost all businesses will be into franchising," Bartolome said.

This entails some tweaking of the concepts to suit foreign markets, according to Pacita U. Juan, CEO of Figaro Coffee Corp., which has branches in China.

Juan, an officer of the Association of Filipino Franchisers Inc., says gone are the days when franchise companies employed a cookie cutter approach to franchising, which means that one system will work for all territories.

With competition, she says more franchisors have learned to adapt their operations to suit the market where they are operating in.

Figaro, for instance, had to modify its dessert offerings to go with the coffee in China because the Chinese have a lower tolerance for sweets compared to Filipinos.

Foreign franchises have adopted the same approach in the Philippines.

FILIPINOS B2-3

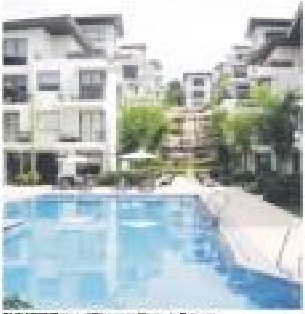
Digital photos are in, but developing photos is king

Local dealer says that for this year, 122 billion photos have been printed worldwide



TAN

Catering to a few who can afford it

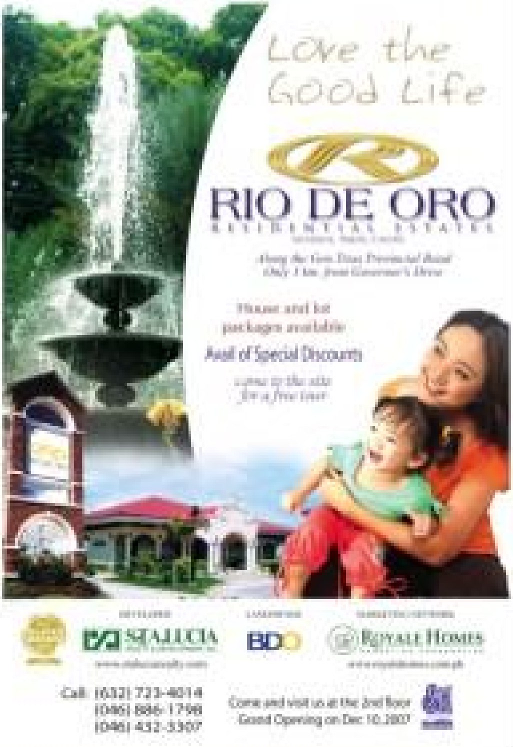


THE FRONT view of Discovery Shores in Boracay

Filipinos putting more...

Marketing Rx

Pointers







BusinessFriday

On product attributes and purchase motivators

Make sure that your brand continues to deliver

MARKETING Rx
Dr. Ned Roberto & Andy Roberto

[illegible]

Minimum product attributes

[illegible]

Positioning gaps

[illegible]

BUSINESS







This Pangasinan city never sleeps

Where local heads claim vegetable prices are lower than in Divisoria

By Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes
Inquirer Northern Luzon

URDANETA CITY—SOME cities do not sleep, this one is clocked.

For 24 hours daily, trucks and other vehicles load and unload vegetables and fruits, while sellers, traders and retailers haggle over prices. "Bagsakan" (porters) carry backbreaking loads of tomatoes, potatoes, onions, string beans, okra, eggplants, ampalaya, [illegible], cabbage and many other farm produce, over their shoulders.

Welcome to the Urdaneta "bagsakan" (trading center) market where [illegible] a wide variety of fruits and vegetables from different provinces and which are sold at low prices.

"Daily, some P5 million to P10 million exchange hands here," says Mayor Amadeo Perez Jr.

The bagsakan market is very popular among traders [illegible], the prices are even lower than those in the Divisoria market, he says.

Traders from Manila come here to do business, he adds.

The trading center was an offshoot of the city's cattle market which started after World War II.

Urdaneta, then a town, had no definite area for cattle selling and business was done at the plaza and near the municipal hall, Perez says.

People from Luzon provinces were coming here, he says, and they would buy "bagoong" (fish sauce from Lingayen town) to bring to their provinces.

Soon, the cattle traders from the provinces were bringing vegetables and other farm produce to sell at the market and buy those brought by the other traders.

By word of mouth, the news spread that vegetables and fruits were sold in bulk in Urdaneta, and soon, not only cattle traders were buying and selling the farm produce but wholesalers as well.

The city has a big cattle market now beside the new city hall, but there is still no definite bagsakan market. People trading [illegible] along several streets in the downtown area. In 1994, the city built a market but the business has persisted along the streets which are [illegible] always clogged with people and vehicles.

Wholesalers stationed at the bagsakan market usually buy all the produce brought here by truckloads. Those traders from all over Pangasinan and the provinces would come to buy different kinds of vegetables and fruits.

"Each has his own 'suki' (regular customers)," Perez says.

Fruits and vegetables from as far as Davao (pomelo, banana), Batangas [illegible], Laguna [illegible], Bukidnon [illegible] are unloaded here, he says.

The products are then taken to the different towns in Pangasinan and other Luzon provinces.

Market supervisor [illegible] says he had no exact data on how many traders do business in Urdaneta. But he says about 50 truckloads of Baguio vegetables arrive daily, while almost the same number of trucks full of other kinds of vegetables and fruits come from the other provinces.

The bagsakan market also gives jobs to [illegible] in the city. [illegible], the traders bring with them their own porters, saying that could mean some savings for them.

Peak months are from November to March, when daily cash ticket collection from the [illegible] ranges from P10,000 (during lean months) to P80,000 on exceptional days especially in December.

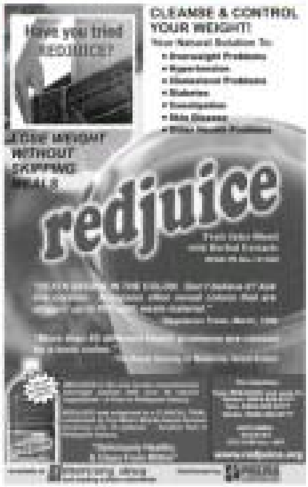
What makes the bagsakan market successful and why do traders want to do business here?

"We practice free enterprise," [illegible] says. "Nobody controls the price (unlike) in some areas where a group of people controls the price."

The peace and order situation in the city is also a factor. Plainclothes policemen continuously patrol the market.

The city's location also makes it a convenient bagsakan market. It is the gateway to Baguio City and Northern Luzon provinces, and to central and western Pangasinan.

The bagsakan market, while booming, is not the city's biggest income source, Perez says. "But it has become a trademark that it is the trading center in the North," he says.





Family members bond to fulfill a mother's dream



KIKO'S restaurant and four owners Kiko, Natalie and William Lucas

[illegible]

Barrio in the metro

[illegible]

No last order

[illegible]

Branching out

[illegible]



DINERS enjoying cheap food and ambiance at Kiko's restaurant in San Pedro, Laguna.

Filipino restaurant goes to Malaysia



[illegible]

Bigger Sun invades the provinces

A BRIGHTER SUN will shine the whole month of December as the network that offers products and services with the best value marches into the provinces of Bulacan, Cavite, Cebu and Davao with the "Sun Invasion," a series of high adrenaline activities packed with community fun, business opportunities, entertainment and other surprises.

Sun Invasion highlights a more powerful 24/7 Call and Text Unlimited (CTU), its revolutionary service that offers unlimited calls and texts. It brings to the fore Sun's expanded coverage through aggressive expansion efforts in provincial areas where more and more people are now enjoying 24/7 CTU.

Sun Cellular will bring bands and celebrities to rock with its subscribers. The concerts will be held on Dec. 21 in Cebu City, Dec. 22 in Davao City, Dec. 28 in Malolos, Bulacan and Dec. 29 in Cavite.

Sun is set to spend another P11 billion in 2008 to boost its coverage and add more cell sites. (Dan Hofileña)

BUSINESS *Friday*

Bringing back the economic glory of *Iloilo*

Iloilo ranks 11th in per capita deposits—each Ilonggo has P18,300 lying idle in banks



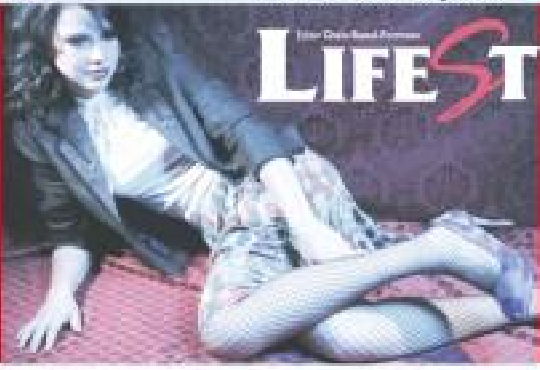
OSCAR M. LOPEZ

Promotion

Competitive edge

FASHION

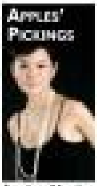
LIFESTYLE



From corporate wear to cocktail chic

Go from the office straight to any party with nary a fuss with our practical little tips and tricks

APPLES' PICKINGS



Apples Aberin-Sadhwani

IT'S THAT TIME OF year when calendars are chock-full of socials like office Christmas parties, family reunions and get-togethers. If you're a working woman who spends most of your day at work, you're probably too busy and probably quite weary of trying to come up with a stylish ensemble to wear to all these festivities.

Well, we aim to make your lives a little easier this season, so together with the help of stylist [illegible], we've come up with a few helpful hints on how you can amp up your work wear with an effortless but stylish result.

Go from the office straight to any party with nary a fuss with our practical little tips and tricks.

Throw in an element of surprise

Do away with boring basics and add an unexpected element in your outfit that will make you stand out. A bold pair of purple shoes or a wide belt, for example, will set you apart from the office crowd without looking like you're trying too hard.

Play with different textures

A mix of different textures can liven up any ordinary ensemble. A silk blouse can dress up office-worthy tweed pants, as well as add tactile and visual interest.



From corporate wear to cocktail chic

From page C1

Put it in print

Pair your solid staples with feminine floral prints or wear a delicate polka-dot chiffon blouse under your stiff office jacket. This playful mix will make your look party-ready and uniquely your own



WHITE [illegible]

Shine on

Shine brighter than the tinsel in the tree! Replace cotton basics like a collared shirt with shimmery items such as a lurex knit top. Or go for a far-from-subtle metallic skirt in place of black trousers or pencil skirt. Too shy to go flashy? Choose metallic accessories like silver shoes or a gold bag for megawatt style

BLACK [illegible]

Photography [illegible]



Pile it on

Chandelier earrings, an armful of bangles or a neck full of necklaces (not worn together, mind you) can easily dress up your office duds. So, whip off that stiff jacket and go for a bit of bling for a sparkly and fun holiday look

All items are exclusively available at Crossings Department stores at the G/F [illegible], 2/F Shangri-la, 2/F The Ramp Glorietta, 2/F The Ramp Podium, and Crossings Quezon Avenue. Check out www.crossings.com.ph for more information.

E-mail the author at [illegible]



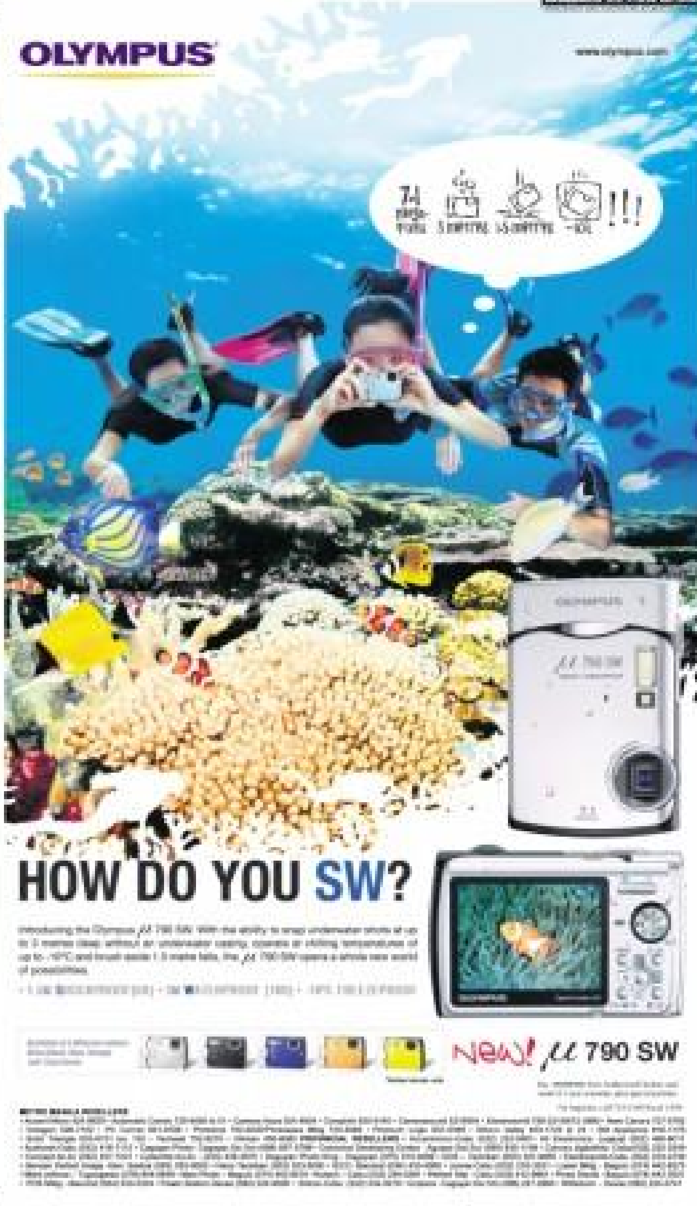
[illegible]

SILVER [illegible]



P); White cropped jacket, P2,499; full skirt with





THE GRANDEST SHOPPING SPREE AT THE GRAND YEAR-END SALE!

Say goodbye to 2007 and welcome 2008 with the grandest shopping spree ever! Dash to SM Supermalls for the event everyone's been waiting for, the Grand Year-End Sale! Enjoy the best deals and the biggest bargains with discounts of up to 50% on great selections mallwide!

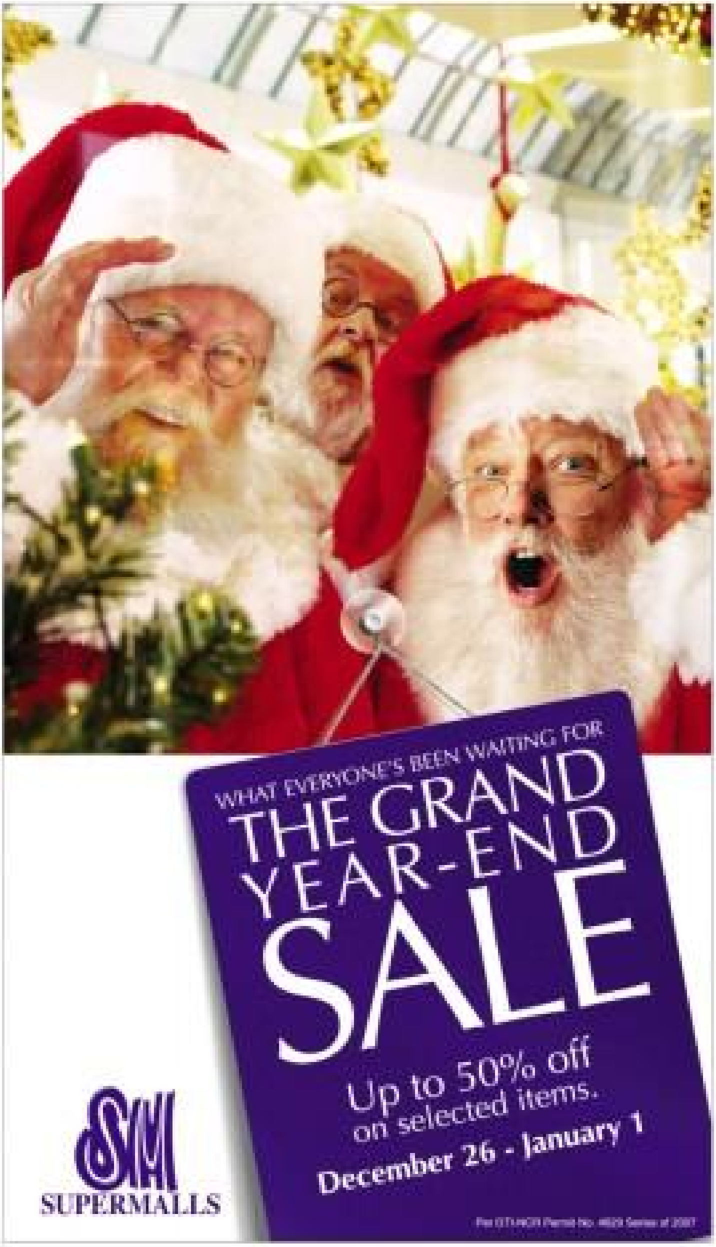
SM SUPERMALLS

Choose from the trendiest fashions, the hottest new gadgets, the coolest new toys and the loveliest home furnishings. Whatever you're looking for, find it all here, at prices you're sure to love.

To let you shop to your heart's delight, we've extended our store hours, from 10am to 10pm on Dec. 26 to 30, 9am to 7pm on Dec. 31 and 12 noon to 9pm on Jan. 1, 2008. With these longer hours, you [illegible] as much fun as you'd like!

If you want to take a short break from shopping, grab some refreshments or sit down for a meal at one of the numerous restaurants. There's a lot to choose from. Grab a light snack to go, sit down to a filling meal, or satisfy your sweet tooth with desserts, cakes and pastries. Whatever you're craving for, satisfy it here.

And to cap off your activities, feast your eyes on the most spectacular fireworks displays as they light up the night sky. With all these in store for you, we're sure you'd agree that the Grand Year-End sale is definitely the grandest way to welcome the new year!



Christmas Events at SM Supermalls

FIREWORKS DISPLAY

Enjoy a most spectacular lights display at the following malls:

SM City North Edsa
SM City Fairview
SM Megamall
Dec. 22, 23, 29 & 30
8:00 pm

SM City Sta. Mesa
Dec. 30
7:00 pm

SM Southmall
SM City Bicutan
SM City Sucat
SM Supercenter Muntinlupa
Dec. 22, 26, 29 & 30
7:00 pm

Holiday Mall Hours

(Metro Manila Malls only)

Dec. 1-30*
10am – 10pm
* Except SM Supercenter Pasig
10am – 11pm

Dec. 22 (Sat)
10am – 12mn

Dec. 24 & 31 (Mon)
9am – 7pm

January 1, 2008
12nn – 9pm
* Except SM Supercenter Pasig
Dec. 25 & January 1, 2008
10am – 11pm

LIFESTYLE

FASHION



Bloomsday scenario

The year may be coming to a close, but it seems like everything's coming up roses in 2008

THE YEARENO FASHION FORECASTS from the powers that be are already predicting a Bloomsday scenario for the coming Spring/Summer season. A few of those leading runway's still: Balenciaga's floral-print mini-dresses paired with gladiator boots, and Chloe's will-o-the-wispy spring wardrobe.



Mabuhay!

Jessi Epperson

On the local front, designer Charina Sarte is also sharing this field of vision.

Her Holiday 2007 line is called Garden of Eden, her first collection since she changed the name of her swim resortwear label from Bikini to Charina Sarte.

As the name of the collection implies, it's inspired by nature. Many of the pieces are made with natural fibers such as voile, linen, silk and gauze.

Expect to see a lot of printed prints and vibrant floral patterns. The pieces are very much wearable, yet still evoke an unmistakable glamour.

Says Charina: "I feel that my label is growing up, and so we are reformatting from the very sexy bikini before to a more feminine and botanical line. I am also putting a lot more of my personality in the designs."

Charina has come a long way from her start selling pieces from her home. Today, Charina's designs are available in [illegible], House of Laurel, Sook Gallery,

BLOOMSDAY D2



BLACK AND WHITE floral voile mini dress

Bloomsday sc



GREEN floral three-tier beach gown

Mabolla, Cuba Borasso at Rustan's stores and Marazzi Boutique. This holiday season, her collections are also available in Inés Bloom and Anaraquiz Boutique.

She also designed the swimwear for the Hana Brunton show last November.

Her favorite piece? The piano mango dress embellished with trimmings.

"I also love the black Burnina Bora beach gown with bamboo rings and bamboo printed linen shorts which are definitely a must-have."

This time, she concentrated on designing two-piece bikinis, which is a departure from her share of maillots in past collections. "I really worked on the cut of the bikinis so they are very flattering and comfortable."

Other lounge-worthy standouts in the collection: a mauve printed "Sarla" dress, an ivory lace dress (paired with a brown leopard bikini), and a "Natalie" kaftan in ivory.

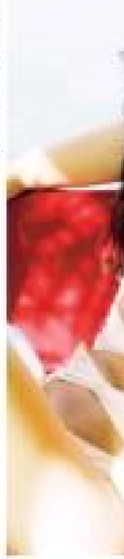
The pieces are light and easy, like a cool breeze on a perfect afternoon. Here is resort wear that will get anyone ready for global warming.

Now that is what I call flower power.

E-mail the author at jltab-[illegible]@inquirer.com.ph



MINT maillot with ruffles



BLUSH cutout with ribbon detail

cenario





GIBI
HOMME



HOLIDAY DE CONDENSADA
WITH PUTO BOOM-BOOM
FROM SPECIAL
CHRISTMAS
PANGHIMAGAS
NG ALASKA
ALASKA
Condensada
For more recipes, please visit www.alaskamilk.com.ph
ALASKA

Robinsons Supermarket Otis

Opens its Lanes to Shoppers

Robinsons Supermarket opened its 32nd branch at Robinsons Place Otis in Pandacan, Manila amidst fanfare and celebration. The store was opened by Sanjiv Mehta, CEO of Unilever Philippines; David Lyons, President and CEO of Coca-Cola Bottlers Phils; Baring Olafsson, COO of Coca-Cola Bottlers Phils; Jeannie Posas, owner and general manager of Dizon Farms; Johnlu Koa, founder and CEO of French Baker and celebrity Maureen Larrazabal.





The event was attended by Robinsons Supermarket's many trade partners including Procter and Gamble Philippines' General Manager Jim Lafferty, Nestle Philippines' National Sales Director Shahab Bacham and San Miguel Corporation Key Accounts Group's General Manager Archie Gupalo were also present.



A special part of the event was the launch of the Beauty Essentials Health and Beauty Center which houses the store's grooming and beauty products and accessories. The event was headed by the Unilever team which included Sanjiv Mehta, Unilever Philippines' Vice President for Customer Development Pong Kyosto, as well as Robina Gokongwei-Pe, Vice-President of Robinsons Retail Group, Robinsons Supermarket's General Manager Jody Gadia and Assistant Vice President for Merchandising Bobby Maharis.

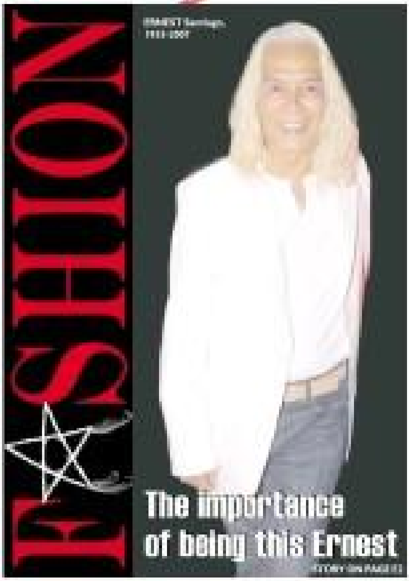






A compact store which caters to the residents and businesses in the Sta. Mesa and Paco areas, Robinsons Supermarket Otis features a wide selection of grocery products and fresh items, as well as Robinsons Supermarket's signature Whole Health section. The store also has an extensive Ready to Eat section with prepared meals and a bakery managed by The French Baker.

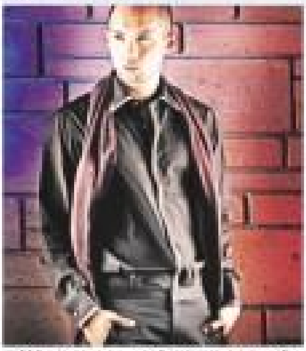
LifeStyle



STORY ON PAGE E3

The importance of being this Ernest





HUGO Boss black long-sleeve polo, Calvin Klein black slacks and Zara scarf



ON HIM: Calvin Klein long-sleeve polo, Hugo Boss jacket and black denims, Ellesse white leather belt. On her: Zara sequined dress with ostrich feathers, Liz Claiborne drop earrings and bangle



JESSICA blue long-sleeve knit top, Mexx black knit dress, Lacoste belt and Liz Claiborne bangle

'Tis the season to stand out



ON HIM: Hugo Boss suit and Springfield belt. On her: Zara silver dress with jewel detail, Kenneth Cole ring and Anne Klein bracelet

ADDING A BIT—OR even a lot—of shine to your wardrobe is an exciting move that will make you the star of any gathering this season.

Don't be afraid to go for tops or whole dresses accentuated with glassy beads or sequins. Not ready for an all-out shimmer assault? Opt for glimmering accessories such as cuffs, shoes and jewelry.

For those elegant go-getters, nothing can be daintier than a beguiling dress. From hooded, draped to pleated, from knitted to strapless, dress choices are as endless as your Christmas wishlist.

Take note of popular shades this season, from muted tones like mushroom and gray to bold colors like blue sapphire and fuchsia.

For men, nothing beats the classic look this Christmas. A crisp and clean long sleeve polo can take you anywhere, from the yearly family reunion to the company party. Just top it with a cool jacket to combat the cool breeze.

Step it up a notch by donning a suit, especially in shades such as dark gray and brown, which are very popular this season.

Whether these covetable items are for you or for that special person in your gift list, only Stores Specialists, Inc. has the brands that can provide you with all these choice finds.

Metrobank credit card offers a special promo in cooperation with SSI, the company that brought to the country top fashion brands such as Debenhams, Zara, Lacoste, Nine West, Furla, Armani Exchange, Calvin Klein and Ralph Lauren.

Swipe your Metrobank credit card at any SSI store until Jan. 31, 2008 and receive an SSI gift certificate worth P1,000 for every P15,000 accumulated single-day purchase made at any SSI store.

Just present your transaction receipts and your Metrobank credit card at any of the designated redemption areas to claim your SSI gift certificate which you can even give as a gift this season!

Enjoy this early Christmas gift from Metrobank credit cards. Cardholders can redeem the free gift certificates up to March 31, 2008.

See flyers and tent cards for more details or visit any SSI store.



DENY black sequined top, Calvin Klein silver leggings, Kenneth Cole necklace and Nine West platform sandals



ON HER: DENY pink dress, Kenneth Cole earrings, Liz Claiborne necklace. On him: Zara long sleeve polo and dark gray slacks and Hugo Boss belt.



ON HER: Calvin Klein charcoal organza dress, Anne Klein necklace and bangles. On him: Hugo Boss suit and Kenneth Cole watch







Happy feet





FASHION FLASH

Shop for a cause on Dec. 21







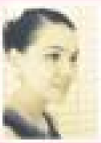
LifeStyle

FASHION

FASHION FORUM

All I want for Christmas

WHAT'S IN YOUR FASHION wish list this Christmas?



I'd love an Hermes Kelly in purple ostrich—the exact bag that Vera Wang owns.

Ingrid Go, entrepreneur, Tessera, and bag blogger

I'd love for anyone to give me a pair of Christian Louboutin Fighter in black, red or silver. Oh wow! These would be the best stocking stuffers! I can dream, can't I? Or a Goyard Jeanne handbag in red (my favorite color) customized with my KT initials!

Kate Torralba, designer/retailer/musician



I'd much rather receive a lady with pocket money! Only then will I do the purchasing of a whole new wardrobe for a new year—a new "fashion forward" me!

Sharon Valerio, model, host, stylist, makeup artist and motivational speaker



A Christmas Feast at Pizza Hut!

The Christmas season calls for special events. Undoubtedly, good food is a must when we prepare for our Christmas celebrations. We all look forward to delicious and abundant food preparations during this season.

Get ready to enjoy Pizza Hut's holiday offering-Triple Chicken Pizza! Savor three times the full flavor of chicken, roast, smoked, and chicken ham, with a tangy sweet pineapple glaze. This fresh, hot pizza, glistening with golden brown glaze and pieces of pineapple, cucumber and cilantro is definitely a must-try at all your Christmas parties. What's more, value-packed meal bundles, featuring the new Triple Chicken Pizza with side dishes and fruit salad makes this a perfect meal with family and friends. Try the new Triple Chicken Pizza at your nearest Pizza Hut!

For more yummy updates on the country's favorite Pinaka-Pizza, visit www.pizzahut.com.ph.



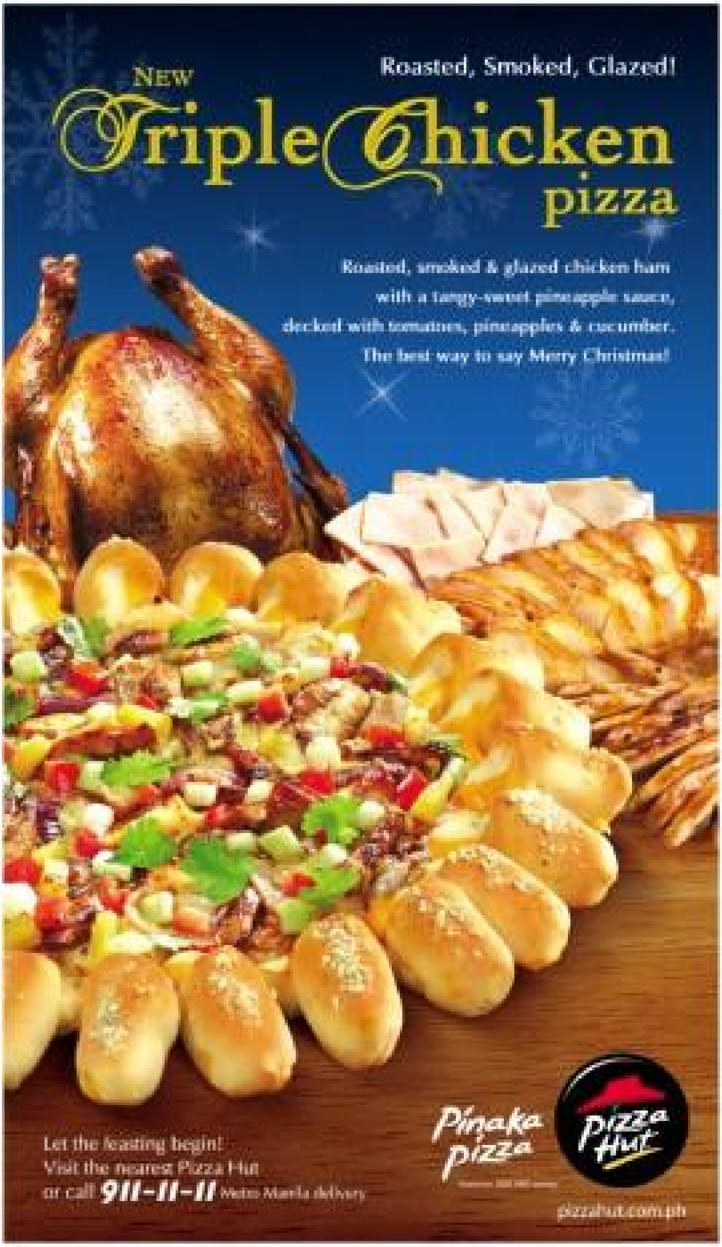
FEAST for 2

It's a Christmas Feast for 2 for only P399! Triple Chicken Pizza (Reg.); 2 orders Cream of Mushroom Soup; 2 orders Fruit Salad ; 2 glasses of Pepsi

FEAST for 4



It's a Christmas Feast for 2 for only P699! Triple Chicken Pizza (Family) ; 2 orders Spaghetti Bolognese; 4 orders Fruit Salad ; 4 glasses Pepsi



Pixel Perfection: The World's First 5-Me

On one weekend, five top-notch photographers and their apprentices roamed the streets of Manila to capture people, places and moments using the world's first 5-megapixel camera phone. [illegible]

[illegible] Samsung [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]









For the team of Paolo Pineda and Miguel Miranda, Baywalk is the place to be to capture pictures with character. [illegible]



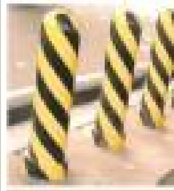


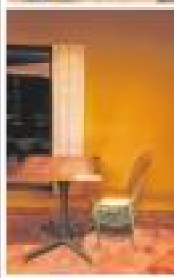




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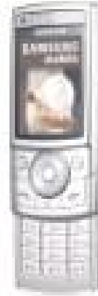






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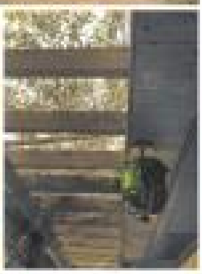
egapixel Phone Samsung G600

























All I want for Christmas

WHAT'S IN YOUR FASHION wish list this Christmas?



A 'bit accessory' by Ree Valdes or Wynn Wynn Ong. Still waiting for my new dress by Joey Samson!

Mel Cuevas, editor in chief, Metro

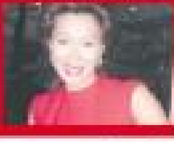
In my fashion wish list this Christmas are all bags: Chanel satin and calfskin woven handbag, Kate Spade white patent bag, Louis Vuitton Antigua Cabas tote, Chanel Cambon Tote and Louis Vuitton Monogram Vintage Mini

Bubbles Paraiso, model/actress



-Chopard Happy Diamonds Heart
-Big Pearl Whipstitched Clutch
-Ana Bocho's Rock creations ring or earrings
-Victoria Marie's woven leather bangles
-Olsen Cooper's killer heels
-Lots of Myth NYW

[illegible], CEO, ShopMedia, Inc.





A Kate Spade Pop Hilton Street Sally laptop case or a Beam metallic Lacoste footwear

Cindi de Leon, model/PMAP member

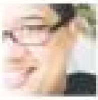
An ivory Chanel 2.55 with gold hardware! It is absolutely divine!

Kelly Misa, model



A new pair of Helmut Lang jeans, if they still make them. My favorite pair was stolen in the campaign. Kalaloka! (Sorry), Merry Christmas na lang to the magnanakaw!

Rhett Eala, designer



I want the Rolex Oyster Prince! And I am still waiting for Rhett Eala to send me that Philippine flag T-shirt as a Christmas gift!

Ivo Rallo, design consultant and retailer



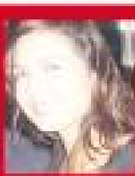
A week of winter ski holiday with my loved ones

[illegible], editor in chief, Mega magazine



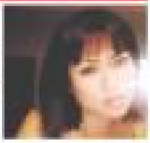
A designer bag. It's about time that I owned one! To be specific, a Chanel Lady bag in rich chocolate leather. This bag is calling out to me!

Cat Juan, associate beauty editor, Metro magazine



A week's stay at the Anantara Resort at the Maldives with a boy

Anne Bella, fashion stylist/writer



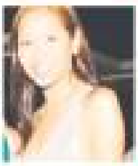


For myself:
-A Philip Lim one-shoulder cocktail dress in a bright color
-A Victorian lace cape, tweed high waist wide leg pants from Kate Moss for Topshop. In fact, almost anything from her collection.
-Louboutin satin peep toe open heeled sandals in plum.
-Prada floral print asymmetrical dress, or more realistically the Zara version, and matching satin rose clutch.
For mankind:
-An end to skinny jeans!

[illegible], executive director, Lighthouse Foundation

My list includes Marc Jacobs' black Maryjanes, the perfect super high heeled black satin pumps. I'm also in love with a rough cut diamond ring set in a yellow gold chain link design, but it might be way above my budget.

Carmina Sanchez, marketing communications consultant





A new wardrobe from Mynk, bangles from Victoria Marie, and one in desperate need of a good pair of jeans!

Ianina Arnaez-Alcruz, bag designer

LIFESTYLE



LIFE-STYLED
Thelma Sioson San Juan

Ernest Santiago is finally truly free

Fashion's wild, creative spirit had a feast of a life

WHEN WE WERE with Ernest Santiago a month ago, I never thought that it would be my last moment with a dear and loyal friend.

We had a fun dinner in his Pagsanjan home—a lovely spiral with a pavilion-style house that opened out to a lush garden. The airy open house, a month later would be the scene of his violent death.









Ernest Santiago . . .







Culinary artist

Master of reinvention

Fashion vanguard

Denim fashion reinvented







McDonald's
MEAL OR NO MEAL
SA McDONALD'S CHICKEN VALUE MEALS... PANALO!
Congratulations to the winners of the McDonald's Meal Or No Meal Promo!
The Lucky Customer to Play in the Deal or No Deal TV Special:
Cynthia Dorothy Acorda
Quezon City
P100,000 Cash Prize Winner:
Gary Pinzon
La Union
P10,000 Cash Prize Winners:
Thank you for patronizing McDonald's Chicken Value Meals and participating in Meal Or No Meal.
Keep enjoying McDonald's Chicken Value Meals via 24-hour Dine-In, Drive-Thru, or 8-MCDO Delivery.
Panalo sarap nito!



Think GAIA
SANYO
VIZON
Life is a New Direction
It's a living inspiration.
LCD PROJECTOR
VIZON
SANYO Electric Co., Ltd., Japan



GOINGS ON

Holiday bank promo

[illegible]



SMART SUPPORTS PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES [illegible]



Elf Squad spreads Christmas cheer



[illegible]

Fuss-free Christmas gift shopping

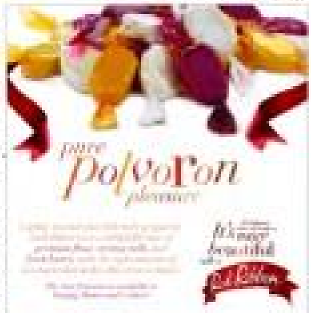
[illegible]

LIFESTYLE



DR. DENIS Vasquez, Francesco Patrone, L'Opera's Rodrico (?) Aldo Nepa, Ising Vasquez and Ernili Nepa





Italian food lovers' haven marks 13th year

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH



Maurice Arcache

Photos by Alex Van Hagen using Kodak EasyShare

ONE OF THE BEST Italian restaurants in Greater Manila, L'Opera at The Fort, celebrated its 13th anniversary.

Throwing an elegant gala dinner for its loyal patrons were the resto's Sardinian partners Conrad Arcadillo and [illegible] Nepa.

The menu read like a regal Tuscan feast of excellently prepared courses deftly whipped up by Arcadillo and Nepa's partner, del maestro de cucina Moreno Muttoi, Aldinga.

While the invitees [illegible] in fashionably on time, sparkling prosecco and hors d'oeuvres were served to them. They also nibbled on the super yummy antipasti.

The al-fresco doors were opened, revealing the banquet seating. It set the stage for a grand Italian dining celebration, paisanggu, starting with the freshest assortment of seafood carpaccio and crudités, freshly flown in from Italy, rich oysters and an intensely exquisite sevruga caviar from Wild Herring, followed by the in-demand homemade ravioli.

The highlight, paisanggu, was L'Opera's newly launched 2007/08 Menu. It included the [illegible] and foie gras in delicate truffle sauce. It also included Tuscany's finest meats—from baked milk-fed lamb to roasted rib eye. There was also stuffed turkey, dahlings.

The big surprise was when chef Moreno introduced L'Opera Group's most talented dining staff that performed a concert. They ended their performance with the forever Italian favorite "Volare!"

So, paisanggu! In L'Opera

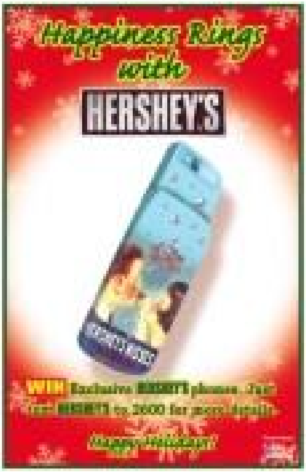
ITALIAN FOOD B3



ROSSIE Herrigan, Imelda Marcos and Karina Baling



L'OPERA'S Conrad Arcadillo and Charlie Rufino





Italian food lovers' haven marks I







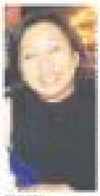


Fashion show

Sneakers gig























13th year









Shoes and accessories for her



CHARLES AND KEITH, THE LADIES' SHOES and accessories shop, has a Christmas offer. Any single receipt purchase worth P3,500 entitles the buyer to either a colorful cosmetics pouch, perfect for storing beauty fixes, or a shoe keychain.

The promo is on-going until Dec. 31. Charles and Keith is at the Alabang Town Center, Ayala Cebu, Bonifacio High Street, Festival Mall, Robinsons Galleria, SM Cebu, SM Megamall and TriNoma.



INTO THE BLUE. Royal blue patent leather peep toes and matching handbag from Charles & Keith.



CHARLES and Keith promo entitles buyers to get this keychain for free.



GOLD RUSH. Add some spin to your holiday dressing by adding a bit of gold.



ACCESORIES. Classic black pumps and a cute little carry-all topped off with clear







New dimension in time-keeping









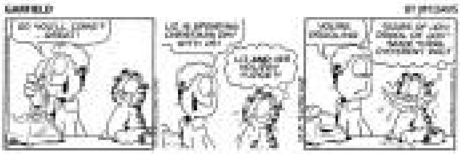
A. LIPIN



PUGAD BABOY

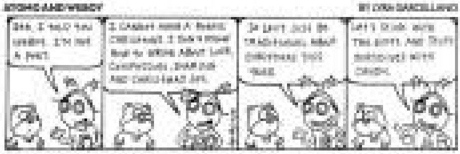


GARFIELD

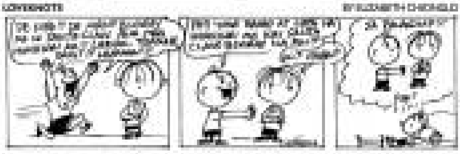


BABY BLUES

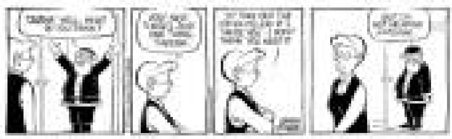




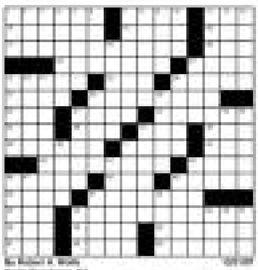
LOVENOTES

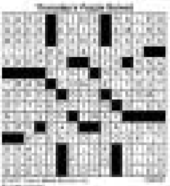






DAILY CROSSWORD





HOROSCOPE

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

			6				8	
3						7		
	1		9		5			
		4		2		6		3
6		7		3		4		
			1		8		7	
		3						6
	8				9			

Difficulty Level ★★★★

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Answer to previous puzzle

Beyond the basics



CHOCOLATE brown and black horse sweater, rust cable knit sweater, fur trimmed/detachable jacket, skinny fit denim

TAKE DECEMBER WEAR to new heights with the new fall-winter collection from Giordano, made from organic materials designed to evoke rustic charm and bring one back to the days of durable and weathered fashion.

The new collection was launched via a fashion show at the music hall of the sprawling SM Mall of Asia recently. Titled Beyond Basic, the fashion show was directed by Audie Gemora of [illegible] Productions.

The new collection is now available in all Giordano stores in a wide variety of colors. From the blacks, grays, and whites that have come to characterize the classic color palette of Giordano to the new selection of [illegible] colors for 2007 fall-winter. These hottest colors include [illegible], which [illegible] the collection with several refreshing shades of [illegible] blues, which enhance the classic Giordano hues with subtle hints of earthy brown, and [illegible], which flashes with hints of deep burgundy red.

[illegible] as well, as Giordano highlights the finest quality cotton that goes into the production of its shirts and polos and the tough organic fibers that characterize its pants and jackets.



GREY cotton ribbed tank, black cropped sweater with satin bow, bootcut denim



STRIPE long sleeves scratch tee, black peacoat, dark wash skinny denim



PLAID crinkled shirt, chocolate hooded jacket with fur lining, straight fit denim jeans



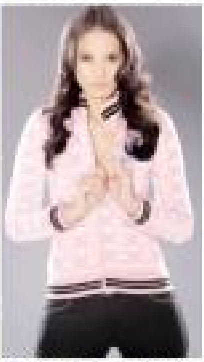
BROWN turtle neck sweater, chocolate corduroy blazer, men's cargo pants



Live, love, sparkle









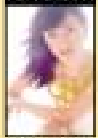


LifeStyle



Shining, shimmering splendor

Lancôme's Precious Light collection has raised the bar with its wonderful diamond gloss that bathes the user's lips with glam sparkle



KNOCKOUT!

Ria Francisco-Prieto



BEAUTY

For the complexion

For the eyes







MARIONNAUD gift packs include nail care brand Christine Fitzgerald from Australia, France's Christian Breton and his cosmetics line, and Denmark's Allison for skin care.

Beauty basket



MARIONNAUD Gift Packs bring together beauty products and accessories from some of the world's best niche beauty brands all in one delightful package.

Shades of Warhol







New treatment to revitalize your skin



PREVAGE Anti-aging Treatment

Hydrate your skin, not the contents of your bag

Oasis of beauty and wellness



DR. ALMOND L. Durla, La Estetica CEO and medical director

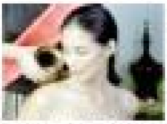
Shining, shimmering splendor

From page J[illegible]



For the lips

Pampering treats to beat holiday stress



THE SPA introduces the Earthly Passion packages this holiday season.

[illegible]

A Christmas gift idea that's just *write*.

Maybe you're trying to make a good impression on certain people, and you're stuck trying to find Christmas presents that are neither too personal nor devoid of personality. Or perhaps you're just torn between fruitcake that nobody ever eats and picture frames that nobody ever finds amusing. Either way, you could use a little help with your choices.

But fear not—even as you rack your brain trying to come up with your Christmas list, the answer could well be right there in your hand: a pen!

Think about it. Pretty much everybody uses pens, and we all use them generally in the same way—techies and technophobes alike. It's an easy purchase, too. No need to fuss about details like waistlines, shoe sizes, musical preferences, possible allergies...

And if you worry about it being too impersonal or boring, then you probably haven't seen Parker's wide range of pens. With so many models and designs to choose from, there's one to please everyone on your list—from the most preppy of your co-workers to the biggest jock in your gang. Of course, you can pick one out for yourself too, for that "from-me-to-me" gift that you so rightfully deserve. And since it's a Parker, it's sure to write smoothly and reliably, no matter which design you choose.

And because you can buy gifts for a bunch of your friends in one fell swoop, it even spares you the Christmas rush! Parker pens are available in selected National Bookstore, SM, and Landmark branches.

(Oh, and—just think of how much you'll save on gift wrapping.)



CELLUSOLVE Plus

Smoothening out skin marks caused by stress

Makeover 911



SOME BRIDES BLOOM AND lose weight without even trying, but not in my case! My



CLEANSE Smart Day and Night Cleansing program

Skin marks

Weight loss, body sculpting

Breakthrough present



MIKAELA Eyelash Growth Conditioner

ENTERTAINMENT

Did You Know...

Hicks' drummer is Fil-Am



METRO MANILA FILM FESTIVAL 2007



"Desperadas: All They Need Is Love"

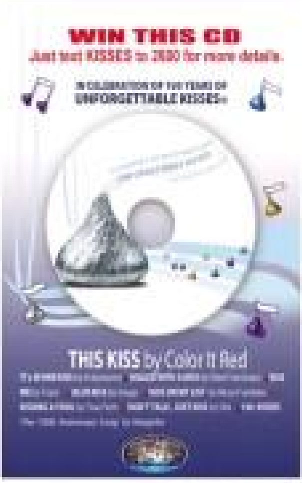
Marian drops hint she may do 'Darna'

Next big star

Maria on Elijah: He looks like me





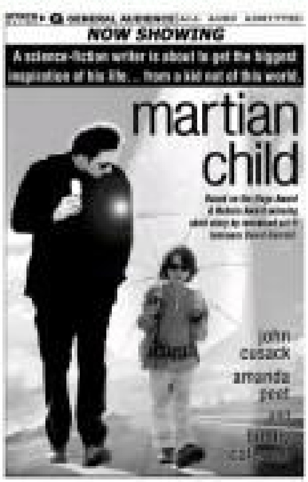












IMAX

ELIZABETH: THE GOLDEN AGE
ENCHANTED
MARTIAN CHILD
BLOCKBUSTER FESTIVAL
KIDDIE FESTIVAL

THE GOLDEN COMPASS
BEOWULF
ENCHANTED
DEATH PROOF
ONE MORE CHANCE
MARTIAN CHILD
KIDDIE FESTIVAL
BATANES
HITMAN
PASUKOB
BLOCKBUSTER FILMFEST

THE GOLDEN COMPASS
MARTIAN CHILD
KIDDIE FESTIVAL
BLOCKBUSTER FILMFEST
ENCHANTED
ONE MORE CHANCE
BATANES
ELIZABETH

HITMAN
ENCHANTED
THE GOLDEN COMPASS
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BATANES
PASUKOB
KIDDIE FESTIVAL
BLOCKBUSTER FILMFEST

THE KINGDOM
BALLS OF FURY
BATANES
FRED CLAUS / HITMAN
THE GOLDEN COMPASS
RENDITION

THE KINGDOM
BATANES
HITMAN
THE GAMEPLAN
FRED CLAUS

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS MOVIE GUIDE

www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

GALLERIA

1 HITMAN - THX
2 MARTIAN CHILD
3 ELIZABETH: GOLDEN AGE
4 GAME PLAN
5 THE GOLDEN COMPASS
6 ENCHANTED
7 GRINDHOUSE: DEATH PROOF
8 indieSine: 3 DAYS of DARKNESS
9 BATANES
10 BEOWULF

ERMITA

1 GRINDHOUSE: DEATH PROOF
2 indieSine: 3 DAYS of DARKNESS
3 BEOWULF
HITMAN
4 HOOD of HORROR
5 BATANES
6 ENCHANTED
7 GAME PLAN
1 MARTIAN CHILD
2 ELIZABETH: GOLDEN AGE
3 THE GOLDEN COMPASS

METRO EAST

1 MARTIAN CHILD
2 ELIZABETH: GOLDEN AGE
3 GRINDHOUSE: DEATH PROOF
4 BATANES
5 BEOWULF
6 ENCHANTED
7 THE GOLDEN COMPASS
8 CATACOMBS

NOVALICHES

1 PASUKOB
2 BATANES
3 HOOD of HORROR
4 THE GOLDEN COMPASS

PIONEER

1 THE GOLDEN COMPASS
2 ELIZABETH: GOLDEN AGE
3 MARTIAN CHILD
4 ENCHANTED

STA. ROSA

1 THE GOLDEN COMPASS
2 BALLS of FURY
3 BATANES
4 THE KINGDOM

LIPA

1 THE KINGDOM
2 BALLS of FURY
3 THE GOLDEN COMPASS
4 FRED CLAUS
5 THE KINGDOM

DASMARIÑAS

1 RENDITION
2 GHOST SON
3 BATANES
4 THE GOLDEN COMPASS

IMUS

1 RENDITION
2 THE GOLDEN COMPASS
3 GHOST SON
4 BATANES

ANGELES

1 THE NANNY DIARIES
2 GHOST SON
3 GREE PARADISE
4 THE GOLDEN COMPASS

TARLAC

1 HITMAN / FRED CLAUS
2 THE GOLDEN COMPASS
3 THE KINGDOM

STARMILLS

1 EASTERN PROMISES
2 BATANES
3 THE NANNY DIARIES
4 HOOD of HORROR
5 RENDITION
6 THE GOLDEN COMPASS

BACOLOD

1 indieSine: 3 DAYS of DARKNESS
2 BOOGEYMAN 2
3 GREEN PARADISE
4 FRED CLAUS
5 THE GOLDEN COMPASS
6 EASTERN PROMISES

ILOILO

1 HITMAN
2 THE GOLDEN COMPASS
3 EASTERN PROMISES
4 GAME PLAN
5 GREEN PARADISE
6 BOOGEYMAN 2

From Borat...

Another 'Deal,' for charity







From Borat to Pirelli,

Sacha Baron Cohen is quite ballsy

Was it his tight pants or an opera singer that helped him reach a high note in his latest movie?



ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Ruben V. Nepales



Really funny

Rather small part



LIVING Stars

Editor: [illegible]

Did You Know...

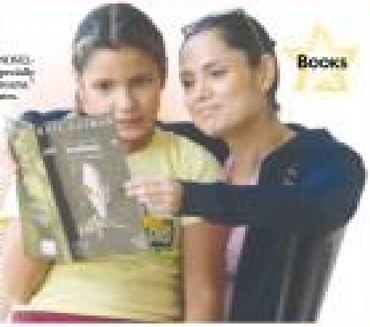
Taye Diggs goes caroling

[illegible]

AP

Books

SNOOKY SERNA and daughter SACHI



[illegible]

Marinel R. Cruz

Preggy 'l'l sis



[illegible]

Tail Tales



ROBERT SEÑA

[illegible]

Marinel R. Cruz

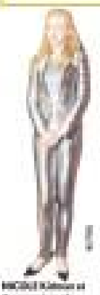


ISAY ALVAREZ

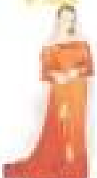
[illegible]

Marinel R. Cruz

Red Carpet



NICOLE Kidman at the premiere of "Golden Compass" in Sydney, Australia.



DIANE Kruger at the premiere of "National Treasure: Book Of Secrets" in New York.

AMY PEREZ

[illegible]

Marisol S. Cruz

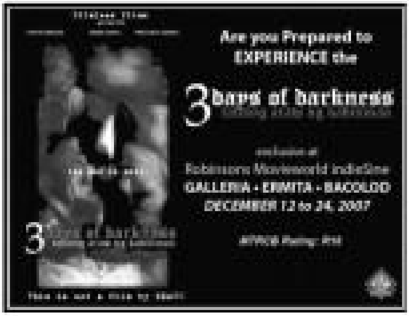
FAVORITE NOOKS













MONTANO GIRL

[illegible]

AT THE CINEMAS

[illegible] 759-7777

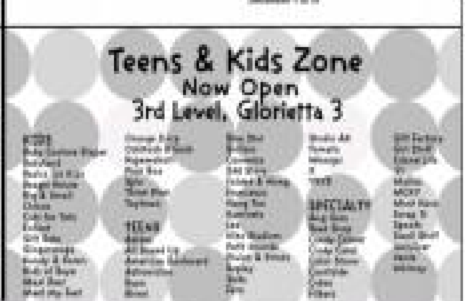
Cinema	Movies			
GLORIETTA 1	1 DEATH PROOF	2 THE GOLDEN COMPASS	3 BATANES	4 HITMAN
GLORIETTA 4	1 ENCHANTED	2 THE KINGDOM	3 ELIZABETH THE GOLDEN AGE	
	4 DEATH PROOF	5 GONE BABY GONE	6 THE GOLDEN COMPASS	7 MARTIAN CHILD
GREENBELT 1	1 MARTIAN CHILD	2 THE GOLDEN COMPASS		
GREENBELT 3	1 THE GOLDEN COMPASS	2 ELIZABETH: THE GOLDEN AGE		
	3 MARTIAN CHILD	4 GONE BABY GONE	5 ENCHANTED	
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THE GOLDEN COMPASS	2 THE GOLDEN COMPASS		
	3 MARTIAN CHILD	4 GONE BABY GONE	5 ENCHANTED	
AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 THE GOLDEN COMPASS	2 THE GAME PLAN	3 FRED CLAUS	4 LUST CAUTION
MARKET! MARKET!	1 THE GOLDEN COMPASS	2 ENCHANTED		
	3 MARTIAN CHILD	4 ELIZABETH THE GOLDEN AGE	5 THE KINGDOM	
TRINOMA	1 BATANES	2 DEATH PROOF	3 ELIZABETH THE GOLDEN AGE	4 MARTIAN CHILD
	5 ENCHANTED	6 FRED CLAUS	7 THE GOLDEN COMPASS	

AT THE MALLS

[illegible]

Mall	Event
Glorietta	Taylor Hicks Live! December 18, 7pm, Glorietta 4 Park
Greenbelt	Taylor Hicks Live! December 19, 7pm, Greenbelt 3 Park
Alabang Town Center	[illegible] Live! December 22, 7pm, Town Plaza
Ayala Center Cebu	Christmas Choral [illegible] December 16, 7pm, Activity Center
Market! Market!	[illegible] Demonstration December 16, 4pm, Activity Center
Glorietta	[illegible]
Ayala Museum	[illegible]
TriNoma	Taylor Hicks Live! December 20, 7pm, Activity Center; FREE Christmas Gift Bag [illegible] December 7 to 31

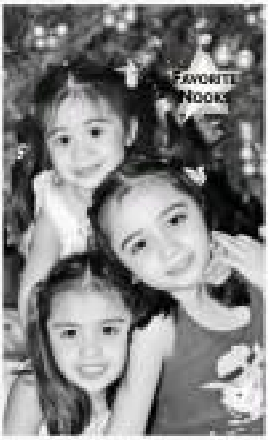




Glorietta Greenbelt Alabang Town Center Ayala Center Cebu Market! Market! TriNoma

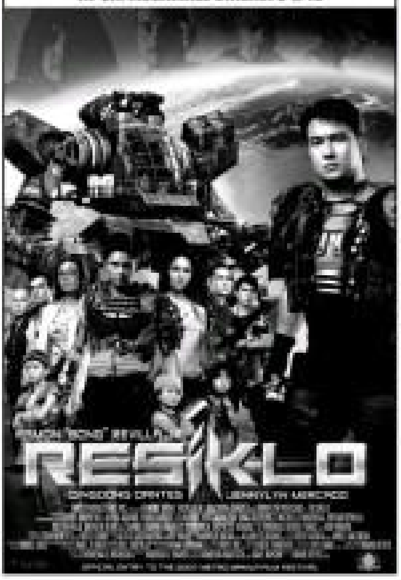


CHRISTINE BERSOLA, JULIUS BABAO AND ANYA BABAO









Dante's peak



HOME BODY





Filmmaker Brillante Mendoza considers his garden/home a masterpiece, holiday season or not

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

IT'S PRETTY OBVIOUS THAT A production designer lives here. Filmmaker Brillante "Dante" Mendoza regards his garden/home in the heart of bustling Mandaluyong as a masterpiece in serenity—an oasis of fine things and creativity, holiday season or not.

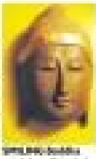
[illegible]

Therapy

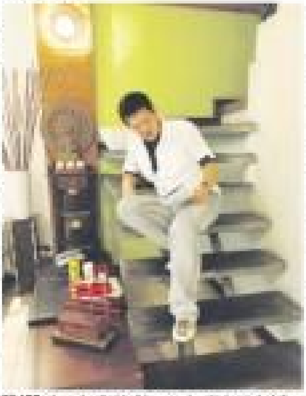
[illegible]



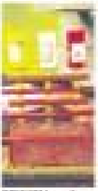
DANTE [illegible] for a Christmas party.



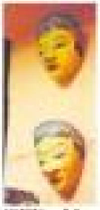
SMILING Buddha made from Bangkok



TO ADD color to the all-white living room, he added a splash of olive green on the staircase.



ORIENTAL candles and candleholder are gifts from friends.



MASKS from Bali



HE FOUND the Sitting Buddha sculpture in India.



NATIVITY [illegible]



Posters galore

[illegible]



CRYSTAL balls [illegible]

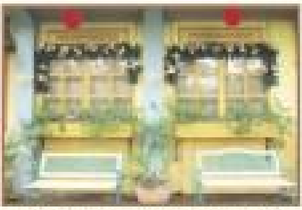
CHRISTMAS balls (left) are displayed at the pond decorated with stones from Pampanga.



HE PLANS [illegible]



THE GARAGE [illegible]



HE MIXED [illegible]